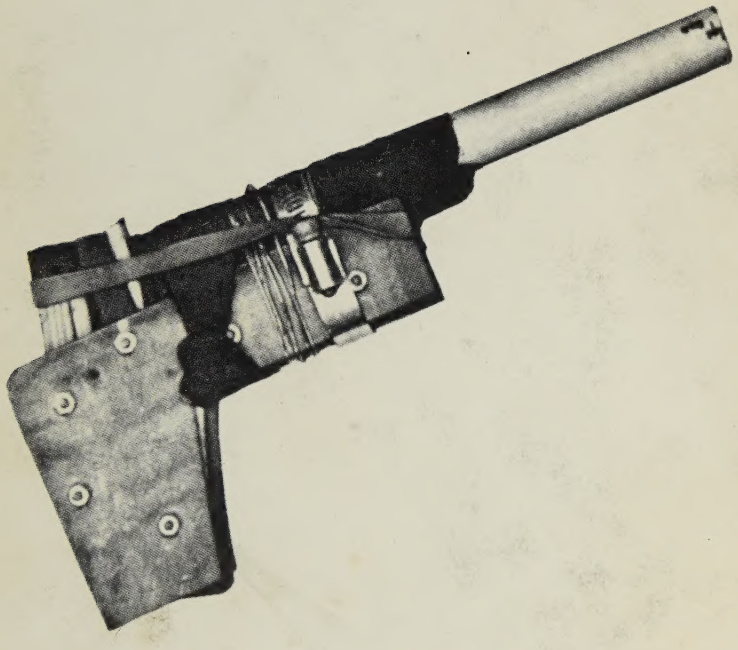
Improvised Modified Firearms

Vol. II



by J. David Truby

John Minnery

IMPROVISED MODIFIED FIREARMS

by John Minnery and J. David Truby

Paladin is proud to announce the publication of the most exciting book on firearms published in the last decade. J. David Truby, who wrote **Silencers, Snipers and Assassins** and **The Quiet Killers,** and John Minnery, who authored **How to Kill,** have collaborated to bring you the first volume of a fascinating study, **Improvised Modified Firearms.** Countless interviews and thousands of hours of research were combined to produce this unique book. Photographs from throughout the world clearly define the scope of man's ingenuity in improvising firearms. Police, terrorists, criminals, agencies which specialize in clandestine operations, prison officials, and firearms experts contributed the previously unpublished photographs which make this book unique. Hidden guns, street guns, guns used in espionage, the guns of mobs, and those used by civilian terrorists are described and shown.

This book will be of inestimable value to law enforcement agencies in identification of types of improvised modified weapons, as well as providing details of specific improvisations. Collectors will, for the first time, see under one cover the broad range of home-made guns which violent men around the world have created.

5½ x 8½, 130 pp., photographs, clothbound **$9.95**

Improvised Modified Firearms Vol. II

John Minnery
J. David Truby

edited by
Peder C. Lund

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J. David Truby

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ABOUT THIS BOOK....

When Minnery and Truby teamed to do a book on improvised and modified firearms, Peder Lund told them it would be a modest effort that would be of some interest to law enforcement agency libraries and a few technically-minded collectors. He was wrong. Judging from the reaction to that book, this second volume became obligatory, and the mail is still coming in.

There was simply too much material for one volume, and with the initial book in print, persons all over the world have contributed new pictures, information, and case histories for the authors.

Basically, this volume is an update of what we published in the initial book. In addition, we have included two chapters related to improvised modified firearms in two areas we had not considered in the first book — espionage and silencers.

This book contains many, many more photos than the first one — a request made by readers. In addition, the authors are literally traveling the world gathering new data for a third and perhaps fourth volume.

We would like your help, too. If you have any information, data, photos, sketches, or anything related to improvised or modified firearms that you would like to share with us for publication, please send to:

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Your material will be included in future volumes, along with the appropriate credits, fame, etc., unless you want to remain unnamed, which is perfectly all right with us. We understand.

These books on improvised modified firearms are truly "By Request."

Here's the latest .....

J. David Truby
Pennsylvania, USA
April 1975

John A. Minnery
Ontario, Canada
April 1975

CHAPTER 1 AN UPDATE . . .

The first volume in this series contained 7 chapters of information on the history and development of improvised and modified firearms, ranging from zip guns to sophisticated assassination weapons designed in Vietnam.

This book is an effort to catch up with the state of the art that we missed in the first effort. This book includes material sent in by readers of the first book, plus the results of investigation by the authors.

We are presenting the material in just three chapters this time, with most of the space being used for illustration — at your request.

Meantime, back on the street, where those zip guns of the '50s are just as deadly today, a member of the New York Police Department's Ballistics Squad estimates that that city's PD seizes an average of 35 to 40 homemade zip guns each week. This amount is a small percentage of what is available, as he says the vast majority made go totally undetected until used.

A batch of zip guns turned up in Newmarket, near Toronto, recently. Sergeants Robert Burbidge and William Hill of the local police, explained the guns were made from pieces of pipe in which a firecracker and a glass marble are loaded. The firecracker furnished the ignition and propulsion, the officers explained, which had enough force to drive the marble through the side of a steel drum.

Also, Canadian police at Kitchener seized three zip guns — two 12 gauge shotguns and a .22 calibre rifle. According to Deputy Chief Ewan Cameron, "These are dangerous weapons capable of blowing off the head of a person standing in front of them or firing them."

The trio of weapons, taken from three teenagers, had wooden stocks, pipe barrels, and firing mechanisms made of rubber bands and nails.

In November of 1974, a Toronto newspaper reporter, Peter Mosher, told how he bought a converted .22 pengun on a city street for $3.79. Mr. Mosher said he bought the weapon very easily and very openly.

Earlier, Dr. Morton Shulman, a member of Parliament, had his wife purchase a .22 calibre pengun for five dollars. The guns were being sold in a novelty shop whose owner estimated he had sold about 400 weapons in a four month period. He claimed, "These shoot only blanks."

Dr. Shulman took the Italian-made gun home and easily converted it to fire a .22 long rifle cartridge. The bullet passed through a 3 4

inch piece of plywood and put a hole in his basement wall. During later hearings in the Ontario capital, he testified he had seen the store sell these guns to youngsters in the 8 to 10 year age group.

As this book is written, Dr. Shulman is trying to draft legislation to prevent the sale of the weapons. He says, "Presently, these may be legally sold as they are not guns in the strict sense. But, it takes only a few moments of work, then they sure as hell are deadly guns."

Commenting on the imported penguns, John Mallard of the Metro Toronto Police firearms unit, said a user would have to be "crazy" to use one of the guns.

"We've tried them in the lab and they simply are not safe with live loads. Of course, they will fire, but they aren't ballistically strong enough to handle the pressures. These things could easily explode on any shot," Lt. Mallard said.

Continuing, he added, "These damn things have blown up on us during testing. They're dangerous from either end."

Penguns have showed up in the home shops of India's Ky Khyber Pass area as well. Nicholas Paterson reports seeing a rather crude copy of a standard pengun design in .22 calibre during his visits to a series of "gunshops" in a village named Kohat. He also saw a cane gun there, in .32 calibre, with an ivory handle, a barrel-tip plug, and a very cunningly retractable trigger.

A Mattel "Shooting Shell" revolver was converted by a hold up man who used the altered .22 revolver in a gas station robbery in Buffalo. No respecter of international borders, the man and his deadly toy showed up next in Montreal where "they" tried a bank. Police captured the man and his gun.

According to Bruce B. Koffler, director of Canada's Research Council on Civil Disorders, the conversion had a fitted firing pin with six barrel tubes soldered into the "shooting shell" chambers. The barrel tubes were .22 calibre.

Most North American makers of blank firing devices recognize people may try to convert their product to live firing condition and use a variety of built-in safeguards. Not so for many of the cheap imports from South America, Spain, Italy, and Germany. Police firearms experts who've seen and tested hundreds of these converted cheapies offer one concensus: *Don't!*

"I don't say that from a legal sense as much as a safety plea," comments Lt. Joseph Bogan seriously. "Many more persons are hurt accidentally with these conversions than are shot purposefully," he adds.

"I've seen them made from metal casings of such poor quality that I would hesitate to fire even blanks in them," says this weapons

expert from the Liberty Borough (Pennsylvania) police.

A conversion was done with a Czechoslovakian made blank pistol which is designed to look like an automatic. Actually, it uses a small, square magazine holding four blanks. According to ballistics expert Bruce B. Koffler, it is easily converted to hold four live cartridges. After the barrel and magazine are altered, it will fire the live ammunition safely and easily.

One quality import which can be rather easily altered is the Perfecta from Germany. This unusual blank gun fires from a tubular magazine.

Another import which can be altered is known as the Gecado pistol, a tiny automatic-appearing device about the size of a .25 calibre pocket pistol. Although the weapon holds six blank cartridges, only one live projectile may be used.

Ironically, though, one of the most difficult conversions is from one of the cheapest of the so-called "starter's pistol" or blank-firing guns. This one is the German H-S single shot design which sells for about $2. According to most experts the design is almost impossible to convert to live firing condition.

According to our mail, do it yourselfers are still making guns, despite increased police pressure.

On the surface, though, not all "do it yourself" firearms are intended for the use of terrorists and criminals. According to "designers", most are made purely for the reward of putting together your own gun and shooting it.

In 1972, an outfit known as JACO Designs sold instructions and plans for a quartet of simple, easily made handguns. The pistols were designed for both making and shooting, but the company's plans carried none of the usual terrorist rhetoric which infects the technical data of most do-it-yourself gunmakers directions. Instead, these seem to be harmless "kits." Wether they would be classed as legal kits, though, is a BATF matter.

One of the four guns is a "Pioneer Pistol," a .22 or a .31 calibre cap 'n ball revolver; one is a .22 single shot pistol; the third is a single shot using .22 short ammunition. This tiny model is called a Minipistol. The fourth design is for a .22 calibre single shot derringer pistol.

If you plan to use one of these sets of plans or something like them in the United States, please note that BATF requires "firearms manufacturers" to be licensed. They and their 1968 GCA define the word "manufacturer," so you'd do well to check with them before you put together anything resembling a firearm.

Guns are not readily available in the Soviet Union, where private

ownership of firearms is banned, except for strictly licensed hunting use of shotguns and rifles. Yet, Soviet officials are learning that persons who want firearms will get them, despite tough laws and lethal enforcement. Word has slipped out from Moscow that juvenile gangs have been using homemade zip guns. In Kiev, a gang of thieves was arrested by police and found to own five pistols, all homemade in a local machine shope. Authorities said the guns were sold to these Soviet underworlders for the equivalent of $13.50.

Early in 1975, an article appeared in KRASNAYA ZVEDA, the Soviet Army newspaper, which told of incidents involving illegal guns in that country. Stories of this nature are rare in USSR publications, and western observers were surprised to note that Soviet Law enforcement officials estimate there are at least 8 to 10 million unregistered, illegal, or homemade rifles alone in that country. They figure there are many more illegal handguns.

TRUD, a Soviet trade union magazine, ran an article in the Spring of 1975 about the same problem. Titled "A Pistol for 10 Rubles," the article told how bank robbers from Rostov-on-Don fabricated their own handguns from materials in a local factory.

Back in the U.S., Chicago police confiscated a collection of four homemade pistols, all of which were "clean, sturdy, very well made, and in top-notch firing condition." The owner was not prosecuted as it appeared to officials that he was simply a basement tinkerer with a fine record and no criminal intent. He "got off" minus his pistols, plus a strong warning.

In the Pacific Northwest, local police acting on an informant's tip found a homemade submachine gun, fabricated from the bulk of what appeared to be a deactivated German MP40 submachine gun, plus other parts from a local machine shop or basement gunsmith. It was "in storage" for possible terrorist or robbery use, police reported. The weapon jammed after five shots and did not function thereafter.

In India, a very fine account of a Khyber Pass gunshop was described by Nicholas Paterson in the British publication GUNS REVIEW. Mr. Paterson visited a Pathan gunshop in Kohat, where native men were turning out home desvned and copied versions of standard Beitish weapons, Enfield rifles, Sten guns, Webley pistols, etc.

He notes, "The most sophisticated tools I saw being used were a steel vice and a bow drill . . . . Most of the rifles had rough finish . . . yet, the actions were as smooth as a service rifle."

He said the village contained many little gunshops right in the peoples' homes. seeing one shotgun wroe the "brand name" of

"WOBLEY" on its barrel, he observed that the villagers were better gunmakers than spellers!

According to most experts who have visited these myriad of family workshops in that area, each village has at least one original of each gun design they have copied. These originals are considered very valuable and are protected against the elements and theft as one would a family heirloom or a national treasure.

In the area of guns made behind prison walls, Capt. H. A. Tabash, training officer for San Quentin State Prison in California, states that in the late '60s, an inmate built a very unique weapon in the prison machine shop.

"It looks like a submachine gun, but it is really a single-shot, battery operated weapon. It has a soung suppressor made from what is essentially a small motor muffler," Capt. Tabash reported.

"He used it in an escape attempt, and actually fired it at a police officer who was pursuing his companion and him after they'd successfully driven a captured vehicle through the perimeter gates.

"Fortunately, the projectile hit the officer's helmet at an angle, glancing off without causing serious injury."

Capt. Tabash characterized the weapon as a "workable design, perfected by an inventive, mechanical mind. Seldom does one this smooth happen in an institution, and when it does, it is long remembered."

Outside prison walls, people who make improvised and modified firearms also have to hide them. Some of these hidden guns are ingenious, and, in other cases, there is nothing new.

The cigarette lighter gun covered in our earlier volume actually *first* surfaced twenty years ago, as the earliest mention of it we found was in the October 24, 1956 issue of the DAILY POLICE BULLETIN of the LAPD. According to their information, a New York outfit known as Carthage Merchandise Corporation sold plans and instructions to 325 people for $1.

Inflation has hit these illegal gunsmiths, too. A 1975 New York City Police Department notice alerted officers to be aware of a small stinger-type weapon designed to look like a hot comb and selling for $50.

"I guess they really were hot," one officer wrote about the small, single shot .32 pistol which was built into the body of the small, electric hair driers combs being marketed widely today.

In February of 1975, BATF Commissioner Rex Davis was photographed holding a pistol disguised as a air pressure gauge for vehicle tires. The Associated Press photo was splashed on newspaper pages all over the country, amid Bureau cries for anti-firearm legislation.

Officers from a suburban Philadelphia, Pennsylvania force located a crudely made .22 single shot firearm disguised as a large briar pipe. A similar device turned up in Michigan. In California, a suspect photographer turned one leg of his camera's tripod into a highly dangerous, single shot .410 gauge shotgun. The thin, soft metal splintered into hundreds of sharp fragments when police test fired it — from a distance. The ''inventor'' was visibly impressed and shaken, then imprisoned.

With 1976 set for celebration of the original 1776 Revolution, law enforcement officials feel that domestic terrorists will use the year as a ''theme'' for kicking off their own mini revolutions with maxi-violence and eath. Naturally, improvised and modified firearms are a part of this scene.

Following the infamous and expensive gun buy-up in Baltimore, police there confiscated a cut-down, autoloading 16 gauge shotgun late in 1974. Its owner had a record for robbery and terrorist activity. He told the officers the gun was for his own protection in the event of a riot.

In February of 1975, police in California recovered a Stevens Bicycle pistol that had been stolen from a private antique collection a year before. The recovery was sheer luck, according to officials.

The new ''owner'' had wrapped the gun's breech and barrel with heavy electrical tape and was attempting to use a .410 gauge shotgun shell in the weapon. At the urging of the original owner who feared it would burst if fired, police did not test the weapon with the bandit's load. The arrested felon told police this was his personal weapon for the ''anti-pig'' war. He had been carrying it in the top of his motorcycle boot.

Late in 1974, Mexican army troops and civilian police arrested three men who were waiting for an aircraft to land, so they could smuggle their 10 kilos of heroin into the U.S. Despite the fact the trio was heavily armed, they gave up to authorities without a shot being fired. The aircraft never arrived.

Their arsenal included two Colt .38 revolvers, a 9mm Browning Hi-Power, a 9mm Smith & Wesson Model 39, two unknown-made shotguns, and a battered M1 carbine which had been crudely altered to full automatic fire.

The two Mexicans and one American vowed that they were part of the old Weather Underground and that the sale of dope was to benefit the ''Movement'' in the U.S. The trio will be ''underground'' for many years for violation of both drug and weapons' laws. Mexico is not a very lenient country when it comes to justice.

Further North, up in Sullivan Law country, author Truby visited New York City to interview a self-proclaimed former combat leader in the "Movement" who said he was getting out.

"Man, there is no support anymore. There are too few of us. The money is gone, and I can't take another bust. I'm down twice now," he said, adding that he was getting out of New York with his probation officer's good graces.

"I have a clerk's job lined up in St. Louis 'cause my cousin works there and her husband got me fixed up. Baby, I'm joining the system," he smiled.

During the interview, though, he told me how he and his friends made guns and bomb in New York City during the late '60s and early '70s.

"I was the armorer, because I'd been in Uncle's Army. I converted a bunch of carbines for them and a couple .45 pistols. We got three M16s from some Guard heist and I worked on them, too."

He had no idea where these weapons went or with whom.

While the domestic war may be quieting, the long-running feature over in Southeast Asia seemed to be showing signs of active recovery. Stories about continued and escalated fighting began making larger headlines into 1975.

Despite the fact that there is supposed to be a peace treaty, people are still fighting and dying in Vietnam, with the super-powers supplying the goodies, pulling the strings, and the Vietnamese providing the bodies. While improvised modified firearms are rare in action today, stories and accounts still come in.

In 1972, Larry Gonzalez, who did contract work missions in Southeast Asia in 1971-72, reported seeing a very well, homemade copy of a Beretta pistol near Tri Ton. It had been taken from a captured political agent and was the property of a Special Forces officer.

"I was present when some of our Scouts brought in a North Vietnamese political officer in early '72. He was incountry and trying to go deep so he could surface a few years later, when we all were gone." Gonzalez related, adding, "He had a really nice copy of a Browning .25 pistol hidden on his inner thigh. The Scouts had missed it . . . The pistol had Chinese characters on it."

Since the first volume, Major Richard Keough, has sent more photos of other SE Asian copies he or friends observed during assignments in that area.

Fred Alexander, formerly a draftee with a tour in Vietnam, wrote, saying, "I am somewhat a gun buff and was really shook up when we were running a weapons count near Da Nang in 1969. One of the

pieces was a British Stengun. I looked at it, seeing it was pretty rusty and rough, not smooth at all. But, it was not British . . . It had a lot of oriental lettering on it. I guess it was Chinese or homemade Vietnamese.''

Now that you have this textual update of the first book's topics in mind, we'd like to introduce you to two other areas in which the design and use of improvised modified firearms can be quite unique.

In the one area, espionage, we are dealing with the work of professionals who have a clandestine mission in mind when they formulate some extemporaneous firearm. The genre of improvised silencers, though, is peopled both by amateurs and professionals. Silencers are also treated as an accessory item for other fabricated firearms.

Silence is not always golden. Sometimes it is just plain yellow.

— Anon.
BATF agent

The Sound Of Silencers

Over 400 years ago, an Italian craftsman claimed invention of the first practical method to silence gunshots, by making the gunpowder noiseless with his exclusive invention. His name was Benvenuto Cellini, and about at least that, he was truthful. While this odd man, who mixed artistry with brawling and manslaughter, claimed to have invented a silent gun shot, he was as wrong, as have been all his followers in the search for a complete silencer.

Firearms silencers is an area in which your authors can speak with experience, both academic and practical. Our conclusion: There is no such thing as a silent firearm. There are, though, relative successes in this field.

Silencers, like firearms, come in two categories, factory production items and homemade versions. There are far more of the latter than the former.

In terms of working success, silencers are a product of the 20th century. The first successful designer was Hiram Maxim, from that famous Maxim family of machine gun fame. Sir Hiram S. Maxim invented that famed machine gun, while his son, Hiram P. Maxim, invented the first really successful silencer. Naturally, a host of followers also brought out silencers.

In the early days most silencers were crudely constructed even by the commercial manufacturers. The home-made jobs in some cases functioned better than the manufactured ones, but in most instances afforded only marginal sound attenuation at best.

There was some use of Maxim and Moore silencers during WWI and on the Mexican border. The greatest sales during this period, though, were to backyard shooters who wanted to quietly zap cats, rats, or other targets in their neighborhood.

Another early use for silencers is one which would continue today if the devices were easily legal to own. They are great, old timers will tell you, for quietly keeping down the ravishing of a home garden by the little critters who like to share the bounty, such as rabbits, groundhogs, muskrats, etc.

One gnarled old gardner remembered his own Winchester .22 with its Maxim silencer, "Yup, I could pump standard velocity shells out

of that old gun and plunk the damn varmits that were in my garden. My neighbors never heard much more than a 'pop' when I shot.''

One contract agent known to the authors lives in one of the many suburbs around Washington, D.C. He legally owns a Browning .22 pistol for which he has an illegal silencer, made, he claims, by one of his employer's gunsmiths. He also says he uses this device to protect his small garden from the attacks of aggressive rabbits, all without upsetting his more staid neighbors.

A silencer, which is technically known as a sound moderator or sound suppressor, is in the same legal category as an automatic weapon. You can legally own one if you pay $200 worth of tax and can pass the security check which the BATF will have run on you prior to allowing you to obtain a device. There is a lot of paperwork involved in legally obtaining a silencer and it will be registered to you in BATF files in Washington. This is the only way in which a private U.S. citizen may legally own, produce, assemble, or whatever, a firearms silencer.

Although there is a lot of generally innocent experimenting by basement gunsmiths, their work is against the law, regardless of their harmless intent. This is a shame, but it is also a fact of law. Silencers and silenced weapons do not enjoy a fine reputation with law enforcement officials.

Silencers did enjoy a period of limited civilian acceptance after WWI, though, generally on indoor ranges and in the carnival galleries. They were virtually banned a decade later in the United States as a rider to the automatic weapons law.

In Europe, mainly in England and France, the silencers, or moderators, as they're called there, continued to be used. The need for quiet was appreciated in the built up areas of those countries and many gamekeepers and farmers use them for pest control. Ownership is carefully controlled, though, because of poachers.

Silencers really came into their own during the Second World War and the agencies charged with setting Europe ablaze quickly realized the potentials of silencer-equipped weapons in small scale landing groups and commando operations. Special weapons were made for the various resistance groups that emerged behind the walls of *Festung Europa*. Silenced weapons were requested, then brought in and were used for local assassinations and elimination of ''undesirables'' on both sides.

Silenced weapons became a tool of the spies and special mission military people. Snipers used them to confuse their enemies. Assassins used silent weapons, as did commando troops on both sides of the conflict. There were more silenced weapons in use than of-

ficials will admit, even these 30-plus years since the end of that fighting.

Former OSS officer John S. Wood, now head of a U.S. security company, recalls, "We used silenced weapons as regular tools of conducting war in our own manner."

"When I think of OSS and SOE; I remember silenced guns," is the memory of ex-agent Marion Mallory, an older, grey-haired professional who continued his service through the Cold War. "I fired the Welrod, Hi-Standard, a couple Colt pistols, and, of course, the silencer-equipped Sten and your M3 silenced gun."

Later, he experienced silenced PPK pistols, Walther MPK submachine guns, and other esoteric and quieted weapons in his unique occupation.

It was in this post-war period that silencers caught the public's eye. The crime and spy books did their part, but it was the genre of James Bond and his imitators which really did the trick. Silencers became a common part of the film tv thriller. Unhappily for realism, their performance has been greatly enhanced by the popular media.

"There is no silent gun that whispers 'zip,' " loudly claims Mitch WerBell, a premier silencer designer and former silenced gun user with the OSS.

Agreeing, firearms authority Don Thomas adds, "It's impossible to totally and effectively silence a small arm, but many are done so well as to be tactically effective. And, there is a real difference there. But, the public has been misled by Hollywood showing silenced revolvers and peanut-sized silencers on other guns."

The calibre of the silenced weapon is popularly the .22, .308, 9mm, .45, and .32ACP. The last calbre probably outranks the others in Europe and Asia. In longarms, the .22 and various of the .30 calibre class must predominate because of their proliferation. Actually, other calibres are better suited to silencing.

A silencer does its work on two principles of firearms. First, the muzzle blast of a gun is a problem. Because of its baffles, a silencer will allow the hot gases formed by the powder blast to excape slowly, and not pop out all at once as a loud explosion. In this case, a gun silencer works the same as your automobile muffler, checking the escape of those hot, explosive gases, to keep them from blasting noisily into the atmosphere. Instead, the muffler silencer bleeds these gases quietly.

The second portion of a noisy shot is the sound most modern ammunition makes while breaking the sound barrier. The projectile breaks the sound barrier, and creates its own sonic boom, the CRACK of a bullet.

Silencers can cut the velocity of these bullets below the speed of sound, or, on the other hand, bullets can be loaded to limit their flight under that speed. Some cartridges, e.g., .45ACP, normally perform under that speed, thus, no sonic boom.

In any case, to maximize silence, a firearm must have a device attached which detours the muzzle blast sounds, and it must somehow either fire a subsonic round or somehow tune down the hot round to subsonic range.

But, there is a great difference between amateur and production silenced weapons. The former usually look that way and don't work, while the latter look nice and sometimes work, too. But, this book is about improvised silencers.

In fully 90 per cent of these weapons the silencer is at a disadvantage. The improvised silencers make the weapon muzzle heavy, obscure sight pictures, alter range settings, impair function, and deflect bullets.

For example, it is tough trying to effectively use the Luger with a silencer, or to hook one onto a very loose framed revolver. It just doesn't work, despite the tv and the film makers. Actually, the best silenced weapons are those with a locked breech, such as a bolt action rifle or cut-down pistol.

This is the situation with Col. Dolphin's Welrod of WWII fame, and later with the ChiCom Type 65. Both are magazine fed, have modified bolt actions, and where they differ from all others is that the firearm was built for the silencer and not the other way round. This allowed the silencers to perform satisfactorily and has only been imitated in a few improvised weapons, e.g., the Canadian Librod.

As most improvised weapons are limited-use devices, the silencers for same are likewise. The baffles that will eventually clog and the packing that will deteriorate after a few rounds does not adversely affect these weapons because by then the silencer has served its purpose.

In some reported cases, as we've noted, the improvisational silencer maker has been influence by what he has seen on both his theater and home screen — undersize silencers which would not really be effective for the weapons upon which they have been placed. Of course, a sound track editing can totally do away with reality, i.e., the loud, huge boom of a gunshot.

According to gunsmiths and BATF agents, more than a few folks have tried to emulate what they saw in the reel. The result has been one of five happenings usually:

1. A burst weapon and or device.
2. No change in the sound level of the report.
3. Being arrested
4. Seeing the inside of the Emergency Room as a patient.
5. Watching the silencer launch down range, plus combinations of No. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Serious designers realize the silencer is more than just a tube with a couple of washers inside. The more persistant types will re-discover the Maxim principle of spiral diffusion or the more logical progression to the automobile, muffler type, and work on theories of controlled expansion and gas coolants.

The demand for silencers has created an illicit market for them, fueled by unreasonable government control of these devices. Trained gunsmiths and armorers work for organized crime and turn out custom made silencers of incredible sophistication have become standard equipment for vendettas and collection of loans that others simply make silencers on their own.

Militants turn out silencers for their war against the establishment. Status is very important to these creatures and the possession of a silenced weapon will instantly confer it to the owner in their curious peer system. In the early '70s, silencers and automatic weapons were looted from U.S. Army arsenals, and others were smuggled back from the war zones in S.W. Asia.

One BATF field agent told us about a militant, whose law-recovered silencer was hooked to a bolt action .308 rifle, saying in impressed tones, "The fella who made up that silencer knew his stuff. It was really a big, well-designed tube, with good baffling and packing."

The silencer device and rifle were tested, and showed a drop in sound of 30 decibels when the unit was attached. That is a fine silencer.

In another case, a minor league hit man was wounded and captured by a New York City police officer, who then found the gunman was packing a custom-silenced .32 automatic pistol, in addition to the .38 revolver he had been using in his brief battle with the law.

"We captured a silenced Springfield '03 rifle from a Minuteman group, "a BATF agent remarked, adding, "The device was only about 6 inches long, but about 3 inches around. It tested only fairly well, had steel wool packing, but I don't see how they aimed the weapon."

Testing probably had not proceeded that far, we guess, when the unit was captured.

Many silenced weapons are meant to kill people, obviously. One of these is the "Camera Gun," mentioned in the FBI advisories of 1973, but missing from State Department bulletins. This is because the basic idea hatched with the CIA.

The theory involved putting a silenced firing mechanism inside a camera body with a telephoto lends. The device had a battery fired system which aimed through the rangefinder, then fired, quietly, through a fake lens. The silencer was built along the lines of the telephoto lens. It could be used for assassinations by a killer posing as the ever-present news photographer who uses long, telephoto lenses. Not much publicity made it into the press about the professional use of this device, but, apparently, a few amateur terrorists have picked up the idea. At least one "outside" produced camera gun has been recovered by a national security outfit, but no photos were released.

Less professional people may want to follow the lead of the Irish revolutionary fighter who told us about using a baby bottle nipple for a silencer.

"Yes, simply slice an 'X' in the tip of the thing, slip it over the muzzle, and fire away once," he said easily.

It works.

Another source, whose mission is different than the usual 9 to 5 day described an improvised silencer, saying, "Hell, man, you just get a rubber outta the machine, cut an 'X' in there with a razor, then slip it on the gun . . . Didnja ever use that one?"

The "Ten Penny Moderator" is another silencer which may be fabricated, then quickly disposed of just as easily. Its designer tested one model and concluded its service life is about eight shots. His report reads in part:

> *I fired three shots, one .22 calibre long rifle and two .22 shorts in a 12x12 room with all doors and windows closed. The shots sounded like a healthy air rifle, but there was no booming concussion as you would expect. The shots were not heard elsewhere in the building. The noise level rose marginally after each shot through the rest of the test.*

This moderator consists of a large section of foam rubber which is stretched and rolled tight around the gun barrel, in which holes have been drilled. Several layers of electrical tape are wrapped drum tight around the foam rubber and the gun barrel, forming both an outer layer, plus a bond between it and the weapon.

The use of water to cool gases and silence weapons is an interesting thought which has undergone only minor official testing, as far as we know. One such improvised device tested was quite successful, as this researcher reported to us:

I placed a balloon into the expansion of chamber of the silencer I built for my .22 pistol, filled the balloon with tap water, sealed it, then reassembled the silencer. I fired it in the basement and the only sound was the primer detonation, a splash of water, and the bullet going into the backstop.

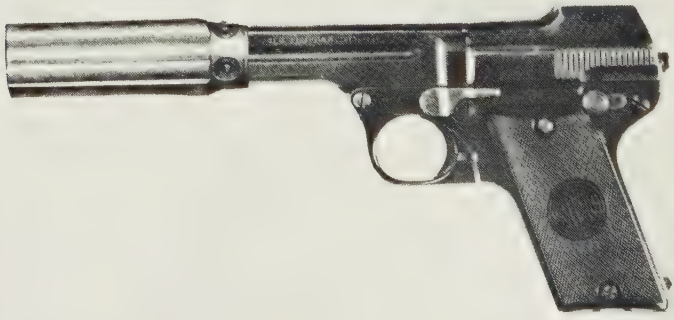
The bullet leaves the barrel, ruptures the balloon which sprays the silencer's interior with water, cooling the gases to the point where they do not make any explosive noise. Later, he repeated the experiment using a small, plastic bottle with a balloon inside it. He cut an X in the end of the bottle. The effects of the firing were the same with the formal silencer as well as the bottle. This improvised silencer proved to be a sound idea for disposable devices.

In addition to the hidden gun in a camera, and the plumbing silencers, other improvised silencer devices have been seen by the authors built into brief cases, soft drink cans, and a very sophisticated binocular-appearing unit. The latter, though, was a professional assassin's unit, while the others are the work of improvisational gunsmiths.

Silencers, then, are a recent phenomena, and even if they are not totally efficient, many are still relatively quite effective in lessening the noise of a gunshot. The materials for improvising a silencer are close at hand and generally, it is easier and cheaper to assemble a homemade silencer than a homemade firearm.

However, the serious trend in sound suppressors, or silencers, seems to be toward more esoteric disguising devices and more efficient ways to quiet the firearms. Perhaps we will be hearing more about less noise in the future.

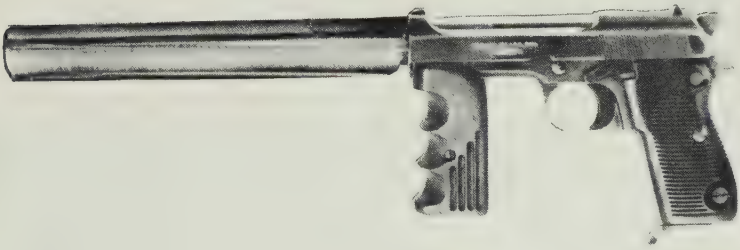
CREDIT: U.S. Air Force
Survival weapon featured a Ruger pistol with a combination slip on silencer hammer hatchet attachement.



CREDIT: Peter Ecyk
A silenced Steyr Model 34 pistol has received favorable testing by several government agencies and military groups.

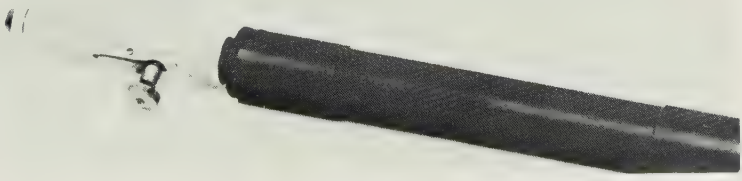
CREDIT: J. David Truby

A "homemade" silencer, professionally finished in an illegal arms shop, helped quiet this .45 pistol for nasty business.



CREDIT: Peter Ecyk

A 9mm Beretta was altered for full auto fire, fitted with a pistol grip and a heavy, fabricated silencer. This unit turned up in Pakistan in the early '60s. The silencer was fastened to a long barrel, and the finish was quite crude. But, it worked.



CREDIT: J. David Truby

A prototype MAC Stinger with improvised test silencer.

CREDIT: John A. Minnery

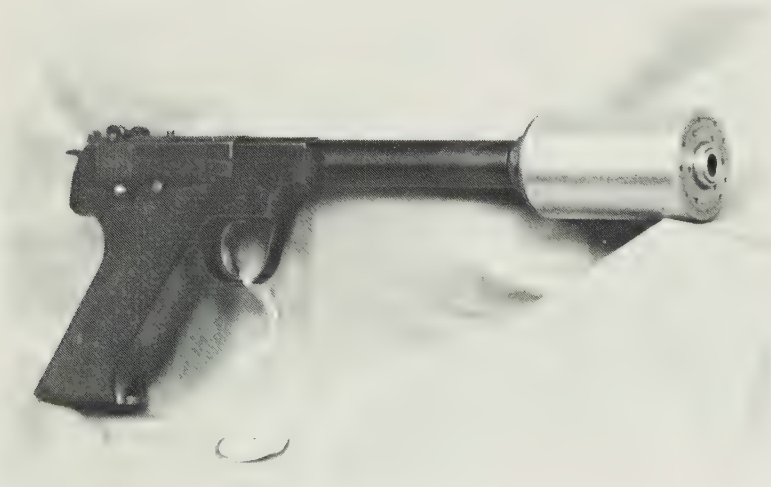
A .303 Martini-action pistol with an integral Gainov silencer attached.

CREDIT: John A. Minnery

A 9 mm Luger pistol with a very effective silencer design by Mario Gainov.

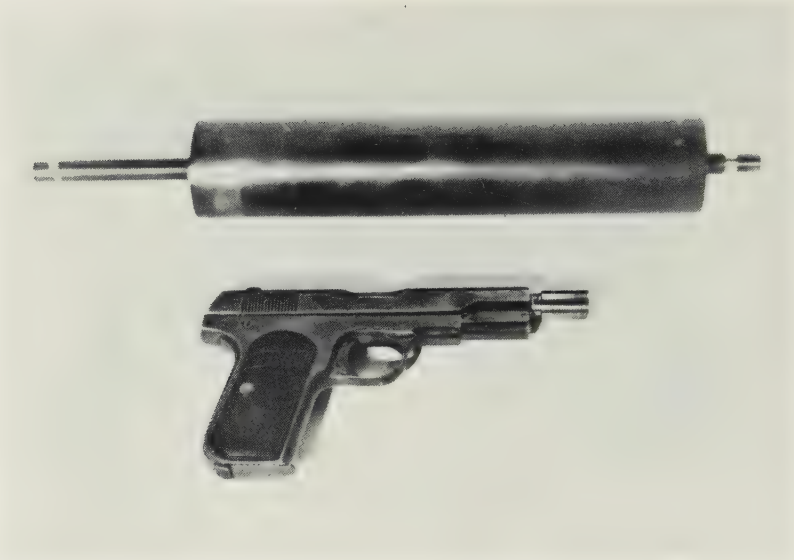
CREDIT: J. David Truby

A very professionally finished job was done by a Mob gunsmith to convert this Ruger .22 autoloading pistol to a silenced killer. The silencer tested very effectively on the BATF device. Both the gun and its former user are now in Federal custody.



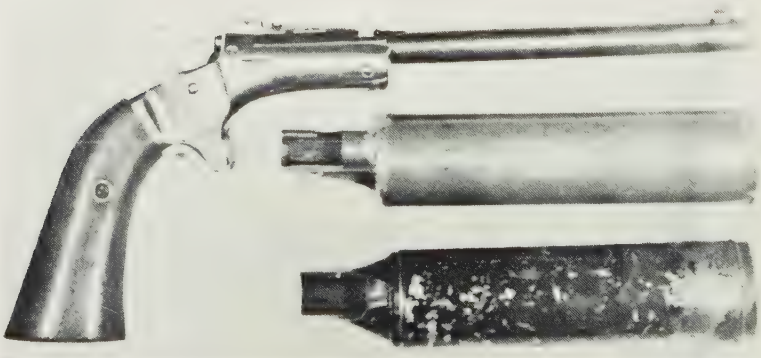
CREDIT: J. David Truby

This illegally fabricated silencer actually increased the sound of the pistol firing. The High Standard pistol, which was stolen from the military, and this silencer are in ATFD custody — as is its former owner.



CREDIT: Baltimore Police Department

Colt pistol with homemade silencer . . . as seized by Baltimore Police.

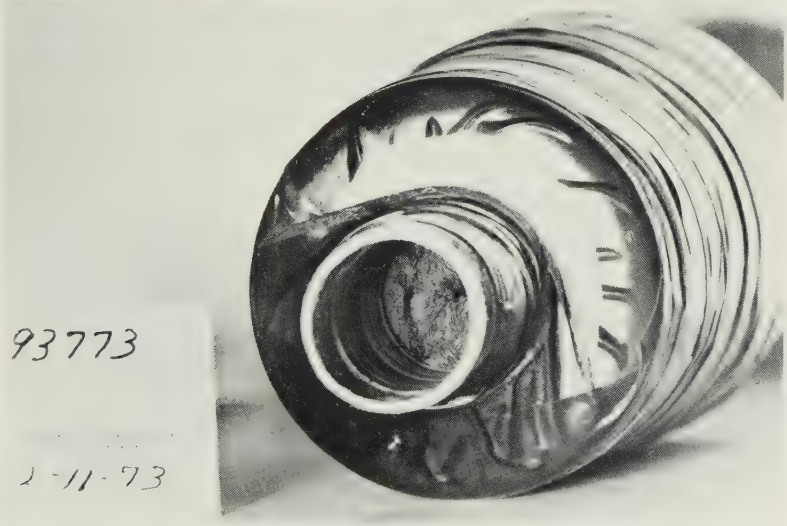


CREDIT: Pennsylvania State Police

Two homemade silencers seized with this pistol in the early 1950s showed Pa. State Police that gangster gunsmiths were at work turning out successfully improvised weapons that worked well.

CREDIT: N.J. State Police

A modified Glenfield .22 rifle with scope and homemade silencer . . . seized in a state police raid.



CREDIT: N.J. State Police

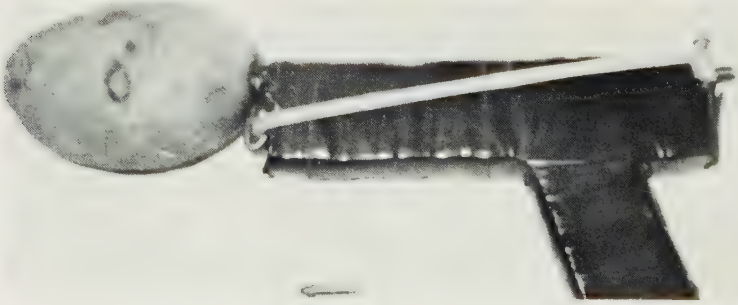
Interior of the homemade silencer, packed with steel wool, used with an illegal, cutdown .22 rifle.

CREDIT: J. David Truby

This Sten MkII, a retread from WWII was uncovered during an arms sweep in Belfast. It is equipped with a homemade silencer and wrapped with a heavy piece of canvas to guard the firer against burned fingers. The British ordnance people who tested the weapon found the sound suppressing quality of the silencer "moderate to poor."

CREDIT: J. David Truby

Silencer improvised in Northern Ireland for a U.S. pistol of .22 calibre. British military authorities reported it of "moderate" muffling success.



CREDIT: John Minnery

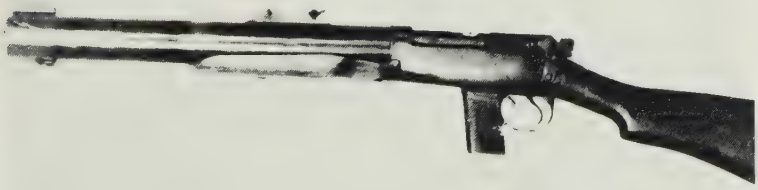
A "Spud Silencer" used by IRA terrorists for one-shot terror tactics. It's reported as "messy, but damned effective." The weapon is a single-shot, .22 Zip Gun that would do credit to any New York Street Gang Armorer. The silencer is an Irish "home grown" variety.

CREDIT: J. David Truby

Sten submachine gun with experimental silencer improvised from the shell of a German grenade launcher.

CREDIT: BEST FOR MEN MAGAZINE

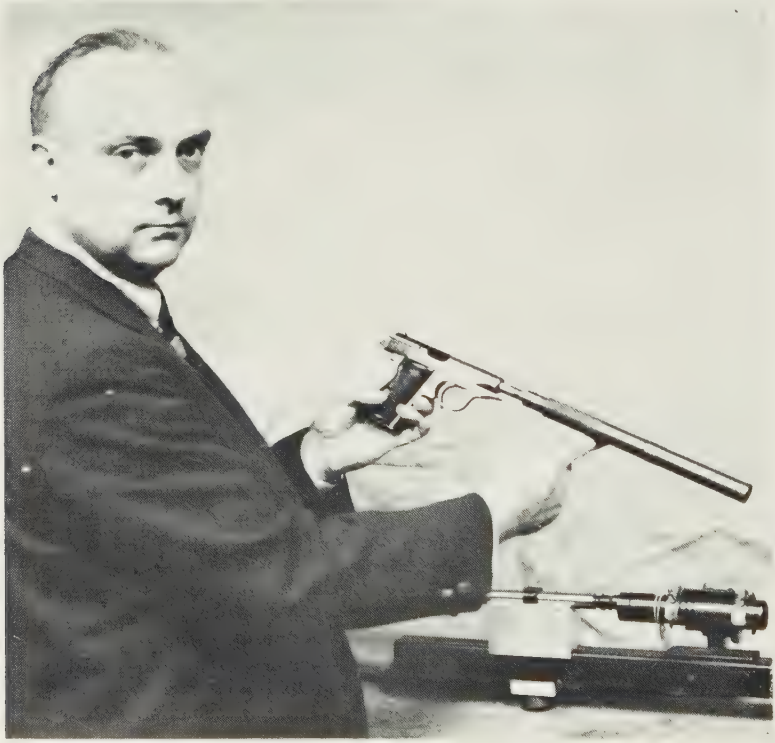
This British No. 4 rifle was tested with an experimental silencer in Korea, 1952 or 1953, by a British sniper team.



CREDIT: Royal Pattern Room, Enfield

The Delisle carbine — an improvised silenced weapon which went into standard production it did so well.

CREDIT: Christopher Truby
Author sights an illegally-silenced .22 calibre rifle designed as a ''hit'' weapon, and allegedly used for that purpose on the West Coast.



CREDIT: J. David Truby
Robert Scroggie, RATF weapons' expert, with the ''home'' silenced PPK used by a Mob killer.

There is no art higher than destroying the enemy's resistance without a fight on the battlefield . . . The indirect tactic can lead to a real and lasting victory.

—Sun-tse
Philosopher

The Real James Bond Stood Up

What does a real espionage agent look like? Probably the best person to ask might be the on-line customs' officials of various countries.

On professional spy who works on contract said he continued to smuggle weapons across international borders until only very recently. He claims that increased and sophisticated electronic devices have forced him to rely now on improvised firearms or to obtain wapons through contacts within his countries of operation.

A disarmingly friendly looking chap, he says carrying hidden weapons past customs officials and military control points was usually easy, but very hard on the nerves. He told us he would never do it now with the current security checks and penalties for being caught.

"I am getting too old for the dashing stuff," he adds, "I have carried special mission guns on missions into the Soviet Union. I took a tiny submachine gun, secreted in an attache case, from Hong Kong, through Japan, into other areas of the Orient, then back through the West Coast of the States."

Just after the terrorist scares of the 1969-70 period, he carried special weapons on missions through Africa, the Middle East, then from England to Dublin and Belfast. Smiling, he adds, "And, since I am retired I can now tell you about it."

Amateur hijackers and weekend terrorists have given the honorable art of espionage smuggling a bad name. The professional must now find new ways of obtaining arms in the country to which he has been sent. The close screening of passengers by most nations is bad enough in itself, but discovery of a firearm on or about an agent surely prejudices his cover, not to mention his freedom.

The agent must be able to fabricate his own firearms, using the knowledge in his head and the materials at hand. Obviously, the study of improvised arms is part of the curriculum at the CIA's "Farm" and other espionage training facilities.

Despite our friend and most of the James Bond characters of that era, today's agent simply does not carry a firearm in countires which do not welcome armed spies. One of today's breed of intelligence

agents told the authors, "The uniformed K.G.B. can put you in the slammer for 25 years just for simple possession of a firearm. If they know you're with the Company (CIA) you might simply rot away your senior years in their prisons, or, if you believe what our people tell you, until you get traded for one of theirs we've caught."

Actually, since the Cold War has matured from the actions of 1947-1950 Berlin or Vienna, there is simply little need for agents to carry firearms. As most professionals will agree, guns simply are not needed in the daily routine of spying.

Our retired contract man says, "Unless I was on a specific assignment of protective ambush or of elimination, I didn't carry a gun and was warned not to. I only carried when specific orders required it."

Although most persons would not believe it, there is a sort of loose set of ground rules for the regular professionals involved in espionage. Firearms are not a normal part of these rules, despite the Bondian myths. On the other hand, the various intelligence groups of each nation do have their "animals" or "goons", to whom guns are an extension of a murderous personality.

This is not to say that all agents can be professional assassins. Some must kill as part of their missions, though. Sometimes they know about it in advance; sometimes not. An assassin, though, has only one mission — to kill. One CIA manual records the following about assassins:

> *He and only he needs the weapon to totally complete his mission. His is a singular, highly irregular assignment that requires skill, coordination, and dedicated execution followed by disposal and exfiltration. His work must be total and blameless . . . in no way traceable to his sponser. To this end, false sponsers and local weapons ought to be evident . . . even the use of improvised models.*

As one expert in this nefarious field points out, "Forget about long distance shooting and concentrate exclusively on killing." He insists that a dedicated assassin will get as close to his victim as the mission allows, then shoot from that short range to inflict mortal wounds.

To a pro, the glamorous business of sniping is long range hits, ala "The Jackal" or the shooting of John Kennedy and Martin Luther King . . . a different mission entirely. The assassin's job is exemplified by the powder-burn close murder of Robert Kennedy — the truth of which is denied to this day by the Los Angeles law enforcement establishment and their partners in the judicial branch. John Kennedy, though, was killed by a team of professional shooters using sniper-ambush techniques.

In terms of assassinations, or "executive action," one former agent felt more emphasis ought to be placed on improvised weapons, saying, "We train our people to spy, survive, escape and evade, but one technique lacking when I was trained was how to make the weapons our lives could depend upon."

A former Special Forces officer agrees "In Vietnam, we saw how effective improvised weapons from underground gunshops can be. Early in the war this stuff was common, and deadly."

Further, the ex-agent added, "operators ought to be trained with the tools to turn common materials into improvised firearms, or firearms which look like innocent gadgets."

Gadget is a harmless word, unless you have one which fires bullets aimed at your vitals. During World War II, for example, it's likely some people had their death warrants permanently signed by a fountain-pen appearing gadget known as the T2 Stinger, developed by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

An in-lab favorite of the OSS's collective clique of creative PhDs, the Stinger was a single shot pistol disguised as a rather stubby, heavy pen, loaded with a single .22 short bullet. Various types were tested, including a throwaway model using a long-rifle .22 calibre shot shell designed to blind the unfortunate enemy.

While OSS R & D people were known as the "Black Box Boys," and other esoteric nicknames, the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) producers of the black arts of ordnance worked in "Churchill's Toyshop."

While this all sounds humorous after the war, the sad fact then was that the Establishment Military undercut and overtook these special warfare people whenever possible. It was the same as when horse-bound officers told Billy Mitchell his airplanes were militarily worthless.

The OSS and the British weren't the only folks getting their cloaks stepped on and their daggers blunted, as the Germans had their agents on hazardous duties, too. Thus, they had their version of the "Stinger," which looks very much like a standard fountain pen of that era. The model in one American collection is about 3½ inches long and just under a half inch around. It looks somewhat like its American counterpart, but, unlike the Stinger, the German model can be unscrewed for reloading.

But, it appears that with the exception of Col. Otto Skorzeny and a few like him, most German minds followed the Prussian mold of lockstep that was not quite so common among the Allies as to totally smother creative weapon design.

For example, one OSS experimenter took a standard American socket wrench and converted it to a single shot pistol which fired a special cartridge of about .26 calibre. The wrench handle is the barrel, while the socket heat is the grip. The weapon fires by pulling back the round hammer, then pressing a top button with the thumb. It is doubtful these ever became OSS issue weapons.

Another unusual "improvised" weapon of World War II was the Fist Gun developed as an assassination pistol for the Office of Naval Intelligence. At first, many officials failed to see the concept of the device. Inventor Stanley Haight, in his patent preamble, states:

> *Modern warfare, with its infiltration tactics and surprise, entails considerable hand-to-hand fighting. Due to the surprise nature of these attacks, the attacked personnel are frequently caught comparatively unarmed, in that they have laid aside their normal arms while engaged in oher duties.*

The original design used the .410 shotshell, although Haight intended his second version to fire a .38 S & W cartridge.

In operation, the weapon is simplicity itself.The device is laced to the back hand of the glove, the trigger bar and the barrel lie parallel. When the fist is doubled the fingers are so placed out of the line of fire and the weapon discharges when it is pressed against the vital area of the adversary's anatomy. It is not necessary to deliver a hay-maker to fire the fist gun, and punching it into the oppnent is not the best method of firing it. The operative word is "pressed."

Using the left hand to cradle the right, the weapon can be fired at close ranges 5 to 10 feet, by tripping the trigger bar with the left index finger. Another application is to lace the weapon to the forearm — muzzle to the rear, and discharge it when the opponent is elbowed, or in another similar application, kneed; these uses are in the assassination concept of the device. The weapon readily lends itself to assassination purposes because of its concealability and its unique method of discharge.

A very similar firearm, the Carlstrom Sleeve Gun, is held in the H. P. White Collection. This concealed weapon buckles to the wrist, and uses a pull-type firing string. the weapon is discharged by bending the wrist with the firing button in hand, or by using the longer string device which extends up the sleeve into the lapel button. The weapon fires a .410 gauge shotgun shell.

The Allies had another hidden weapon up their sleeve with a combination club and .32 calibre single shot pistol developed by the British. Although very little information is available about the weapon, it is known as the "Sleeve Gun" in what literature exists.

Apparently, this silenced gun was designed, perhaps by the SOE's Col. Dolphin, as an assassination weapon to be held up one's sleeve, brought into play, quietly fired at the target, withdrawn, etc. In the event of trouble, the firer could always use it as a club, as it was quite sturdy and perfectly shaped as a bludgeon. Truby, who first brought this weapon to public attention in his intitial book on silencers has tried unsucessfully to obtain more information and photos. Later research reveals it was designed at Welwyn, the same as the Welrod.

An earlier model of this weapon was patented in Britain by John Day, designer of the famed cane guns. He produced a number of heavy, unsilenced, all-metal truncheons which doubled as firearms. None, though, is the design of the so-called Sleeve Gun.

Predating the ONI gun and British sleeve gun, E. B. Juhasz patented an "Automatic concealed firearm for self-defense" in August of 1929. The weapon is loaded by unscrewing the barrel and inserting a .30 cartridge. The weapon is cocked by drawing back a striker which is attached to a cord running to a ring on the middle finger. The hand flips back, the ring pulls, and the sleeve gun fires.

Even during the glory days of World War II, some SOE and OSS agents simply refused all their special guns, silenced zip pistols, and L-pills in favor of homemade stuff they could easily ditch in action. They knew they were dead as spies if caught with the generically santized armaments.

Mike Burke, a CBS executive, was once an OSS JEDBURGH agent who agreed, saying, "We parachuted in with the plans or ideas for improvised guns, or we knew we could get Stens for any particular mission. We could always pose as farmhands when we weren't all dolled up like Alan Ladd with secret mission weapons if the SS caught up with us."

Another method for improvising a firearm is to have component parts brought in by various persons and methods. Usually, this is done for a specific mission, such as assassination. Mike Burke recalls, "I heard some of our people did this in Paris, prior to the invasion in 1944, trying to hit two top Nazi figures. Several operatives had smuggled pieces of a sniper rifle into the city. I don't know what the result was."

That comment pretty well explains all the spy and counter-spy activity taking place in the immediate post-war period. All sorts of weapons were tried and used, most of which were the ones previously mentioned. It was more than a decade after the war that a new generation of strange firearm showed up, and it was on the eastern side of a strange new word coined by Winston Churchill — the Iron Curtain.

There is a department in the Soviet Ministry of State Security, in the Foreign Intelligence Directorate, known at Otdel 13. This department is responsible for the kidnaping, murder and assassination of individuals, who, in the opinion of the Soviet Government, have worked against the Communist cause.

In the old days the O.G.P.U. would make a big splash murdering an anti-communist or defector. The salutory effect of a bullet-riddled corpse would keep the other cadres in line and terrorize those who were still eluding their grip. No respecter of borders, the Secret Police would range the world over, France, Spain, Macao, Austria, U.S.A., Germany, Holland, Belgium and many other countries have seen their handiwork. The impunity with which they used to strike has mellowed somewhat in the era of *detente,* though.

The Soviets had done quite a bit of research and testing of various devices, including poisoned darts, bullets, salt-shakers and the like in the K.G.B. Labs under Maj. General Blokhin. Assassin's pistols took shape under General Alexander Panyushkin, and most seem to lean towards electrical detonation of the propellant powder by means of batteries. The use of electrically-initiated pistols simplifies them somewhat and also allows a variety of configurations.

One of the earliest developments was a cigarette pack gun which fired cyanide bullets into the head of the victim as the assassin offered him a cigarette. Another was the Troika, a three-barrelled pistol made of non-ferrous materials to defeat the metal detectors at customs checks. This pistol could fire selectively one, two, or all three barrels at once. For example, their SQUID is a small, two barrelled weapon firing poisoned .22 calibre projectiles.

On October 12, 1957 Lev Rebet was killed in Munich by a gas pistol fired into his face by Bogdan Stashinsky who held the pistol under a newspaper as they passed on the stairs:

From the official records:

> *The weapon was a metal tube, about as thick as a finger and about 7 inches long, consisting of three sections screwed together. In the bottom section is a fixed firing pin released by pressing a bolted spring. The firing pin ignites a powder charge, causing a metal plunger in the middle section to slide forward, crushing a glass ampoule which contains 5 cubic centimeters of cyanide (ten times the fatal amount). The poison is sprayed out as a gas and has a fatal effect within a few seconds since it deprives the blood of its capacity to convey oxygen. Rebet was found dead around 10:40 a.m. and the post mortems stated that he died of a heart attack. No traces of poison were found because the prussic acid had evaporated by the time the medical examiner saw the body.*

Ukrainian Nationalist leader and staunch anti-Communist, Stefen Bandera received similar treatment two years later in Munich on October 15, 1959. This time Stashinsky had a two-barrelled gas gun. In almost an exact replay of the Rebet killing, Stashinsky passed Bandera on the landing of a stairway and fired both barrels at his head from about a foot and a half away.

West German agents suspected foul play, and traces of prussic acid were found as well as particles of the broken ampule embedded in his face. Stashinsky fired too close to his victim.

Stashinsky was shaken by the murders, although, when he returned to Moscow he was awarded the Order of the Red Banner and advised that he would be committing more murders for the K.G.B. in the future. He recoiled from this development and from that point worked to get his wife and himself to the West. He did so in the summer of 1961 and surrendered to the West German Police.

He is now free and living under a new identity, because he was only a tool. The real murderers are in the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

In a fairly recent development, their gas gun has been perfected by adding a screen mesh to the muzzle to trap the glass splinters and the firing system has gone electric. Firer-taken antidotes are kept in the hollow handle of the pistol, and the volume of the gas increased slightly. The three foot range is no problem as the ''hits'' are carried out at point-blank range. Such ''hits'' are called ''greetings'' in official K.G.B. parlance, which is similar to the C.I.A. ''termination, with extreme prejudice.''

This second generation Stinger-type weapon is a modification of the K.G.B.'s secret SQUID assassination device. Designed in .22 calibre, it is easily disassembled, and is usually carried that way until ready for use. Both barrels can be discharged at once or separately, depending upon situation or circumstance. The weapon has three major parts: Barrel group; receiver group; and trigger lever group.

In the meantime, the Western nations have been only partly busy in providing ''secret'' weapons which hide from headlines. Of course, this may be due to our recent involvement in a war which precluded the subtle weapons of the other sort of conflict.

Not a unique, but a vastly improved, weapon is kind of an updated copy of the World War II ''Stinger,'' this one called the SSS-1 ''Stinger,'' is a three-inch-long, two-ounce, one-shot defensive hand weapon.

Despite efforts by both the manufacturer and the U.S. military to limit its distribution to authorized personnel, the tiny weapon, based

on that earlier OSS model, gained favor as the ideal personal backup weapon among American GIs in Vietnam.

"These other guys hang light-frame handguns all over themselves," one ex-Green Beret working as a "civilian" in Saigon observed of soldiers looking for an easily-concealed weapon. "I have my backup weapon in here," and he pulled a black cylinder Stinger from a special compartment in his cigarette pack.

Consisting of a three-inch tube of steel that holds any form of .22-cal. rimfire cartridge, this Stinger has a cocking mechanism, and a mechanical firing assembly. It is fired by depressing the squeeze trigger with the thumb. It is lethal at a range of 20 feet, and there is little recoil if the weapon is held firmly in the hand.

This new Stinger is the improvisation of Mitchell WerBell III, a former OSS agent who has a history of developing highly unusual and useful weapons.

During World War II, serving in the China - Burma - India theater, Capt. WerBell was impressed with the modest OSS Stinger. After the war, WerBell went into the design and manufacture of international armament, and by the late 1960s, he was considered one of the foremost designers and marketers of special-mission weapons.

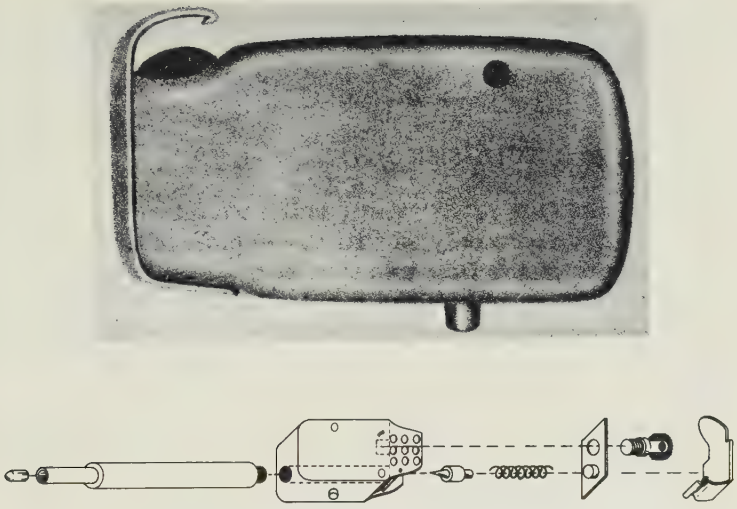
While traveling in Vietnam in 1968 for his company, the Military Armament Corp. (MAC), WerBell met a CIA agent who still carried one of the original OSS Stingers.

Back at the MAC plant in Marietta, Ga., WerBell's people redesigned the first of the new Stingers.

"We found a great deal of interest in Stingers among military police personnel and with Special Forces troops," said WerBell. "We also got some inquiries about personal defense weapons for plainclothes officers."

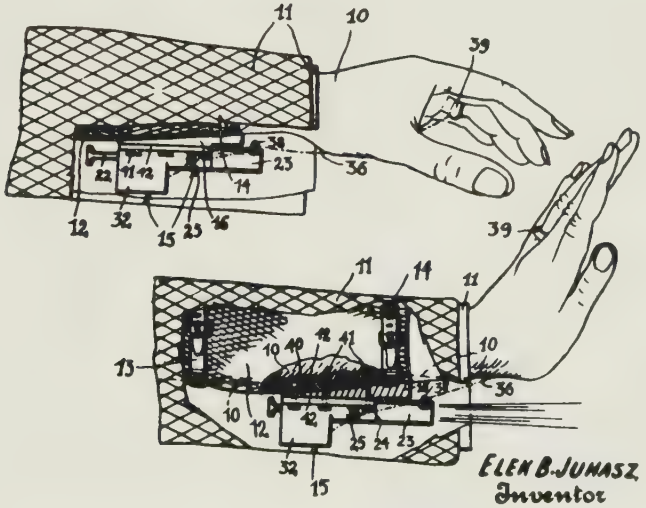
As the 1970s flow along and there is little public cry for new monies to develop new weapons, it must be plain that both sides consider themselves well-armed. It is almost as if a form of "detente" has been reached in espionage. Of course, the major plan of each says "NO" to all that.

Instead, some sort of unproved, unpredictable, unspoken truce exists right now. And, this comes from very tight sources. From what is known, it seems the East outdrew the West on really secret stuff.



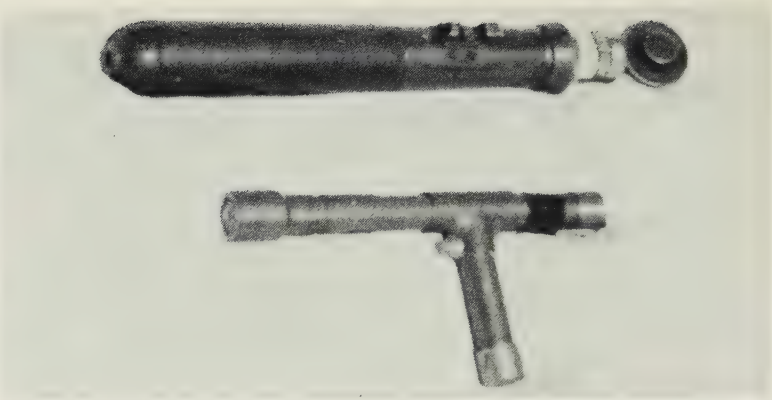
CREDIT: Foreign Science & Technology Center

This Vietnamese cigarette lighter is another in a series of hidden firearms produced for assassination missions by espionage operatives. This example was recovered under covert conditions in SE Asia.



CREDIT: U.S. Patent Office

Patent sketch for the Elek Juhasz sleeve pistol.



CREDIT: William Colby Associates, Ltd.

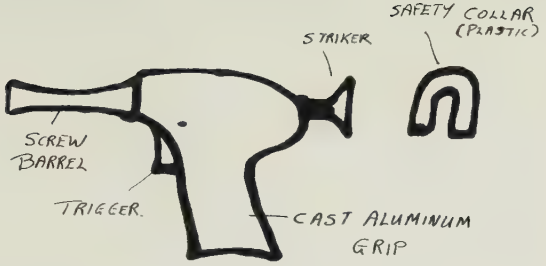
Two guns which quietly fire gas. The TOP weapon is an electrically fired "gun disguised as a billy club — used to fire teargas or modified to fire poisongas. BOTTOM weapon is a Soviet improvised device used for assassination. Firing is initiated by battery power in both cases.

CREDIT: William Colby Associates, Ltd.

Nicknamed "Troika," this 3-shot, .30 calibre weapon is the improvised design of an espionage agent. Using poisoned cartridges and produced of an alloy which did not alarm magnatometers, it is an ideal assassination weapon to be smuggled . . .

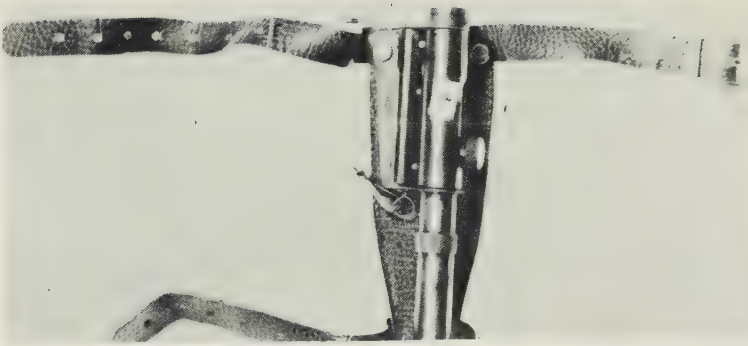
CREDIT: Ajax Plumbers, Ltd.

A comparison between the old OSS Liberator in .45 ACP, and a .22 calibre improvised weapon of the type easily made and used by an agent in need of a "sanitized" firearm.



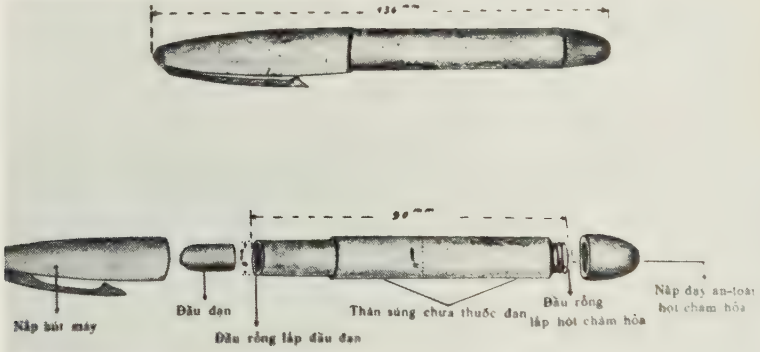
CREDIT: Maritime Associates
Artist sketch of CIA-funded zip gun produced for use behind lines in counterinsurgency mission. About 7000 of these pistols were recently destroyed by Agency directive. According to our sources, about a dozen remain. There are no photos available, and no one outside the Agency has seen the gun.

CREDIT: Liberty Borough Police
Lt. Joseph Bogan examines a custom-made sawed off shotgun now in the custody of his department's collection facility.



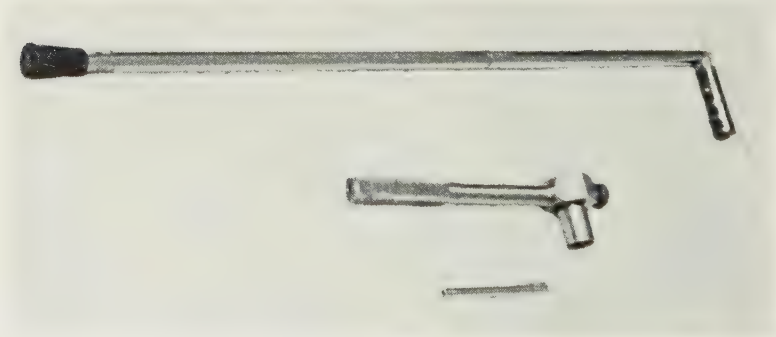
CREDIT: H. P. White

The Carlstrom Sleeve Gun . . . a hideaway .410 gauge shotgun.



CREDIT: Tom Swearengen

Descriptive chart from South Vietnamese intelligence illustrating an assassination firearm disguised as a pen.



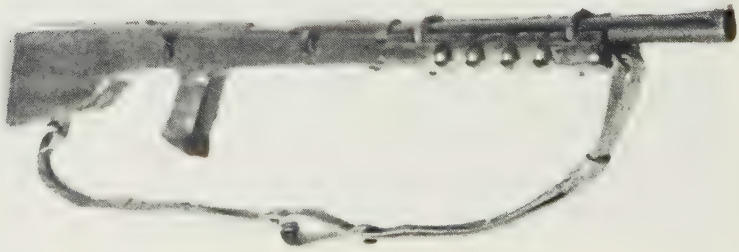
CREDIT: Turnsole, Inc.

Three examples of professionally produced and disguised assassination weapons, including, the shotgun cane firearm; a ratchet wrench pistol of the OSS type; and a .22 gun pistol of the ''Stinger'' design.

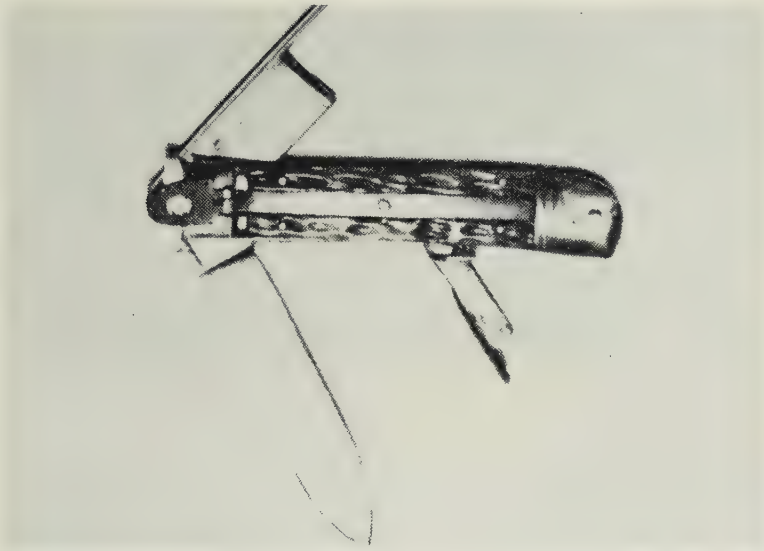
CREDIT: Official Photo

Bogdan Stashinsky re-enacts his approach on Bandera. Gas pistol is inside that newspaper he is withdrawing from his jacket. A moment later he reaches the landing and assassinates the Ukrainian anti-communist leader.

CREDIT: J. David Truby
A .22 hollow-point cartridge is loaded in to the MAC Stinger's barrel, which screws onto the receiver.

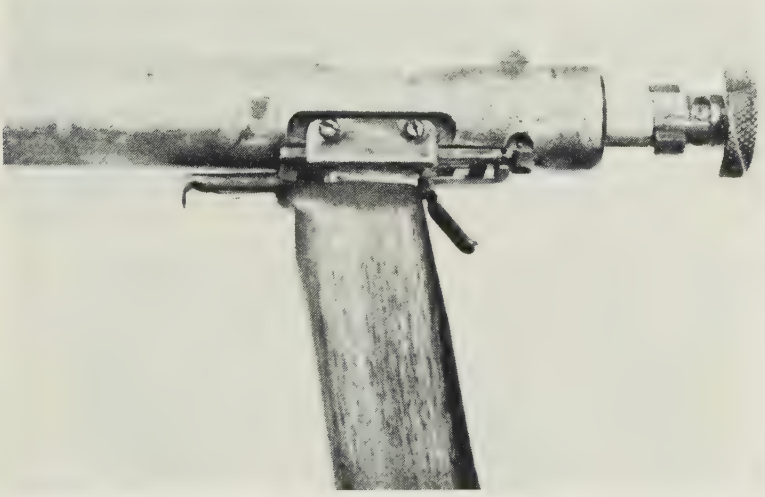


CREDIT: Glen Haven Boarding House Alumni
Side view of a trombone-action Assault Shotgun — an improvised weapon whose construction and use is taught to friendly guerrillas.



CREDIT: Lewis Winant, courtesy of Ray Riling

This knife pistol used the same basic German-made switchblade knife with which the CIA equipped many operatives in the 1950s.

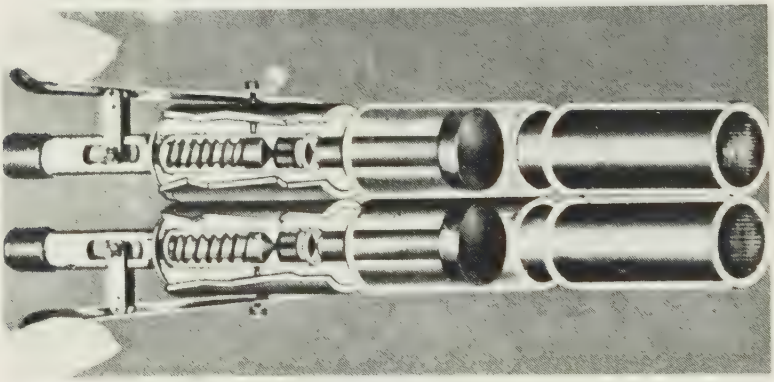


CREDIT: Fairways Corporation

This pistol first surfaced in the early '60s and was unidentified — even by the experts at the time. It is, simply, a cutdown British Welrod, a silenced espionage pistol issued by the SOE and also used by OSS personnel on covert missions. Someone took one of those pistols and cut back the barrel to the baffling system. This weapon is now owned by a private collector.

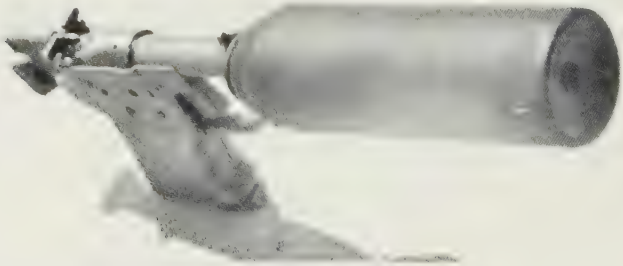
CREDIT: OSS Archives

As a third stage in the development of a cheap, stamping produced pistol suitable for arms drops in mass quantities, OSS researchers came up with this .45 ACP autoloading pistol. It did not go into production.



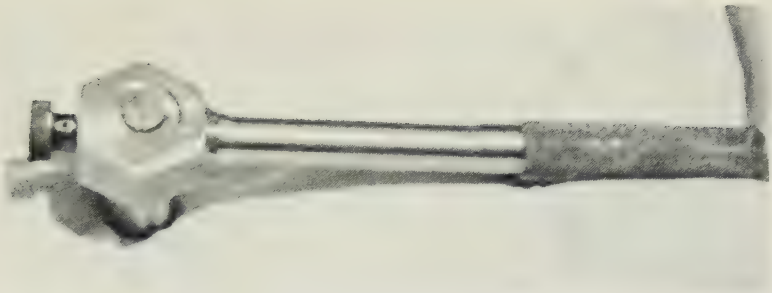
CREDIT: Reinhard Gehlen

The KGB's hydrogen-cyanide gun.



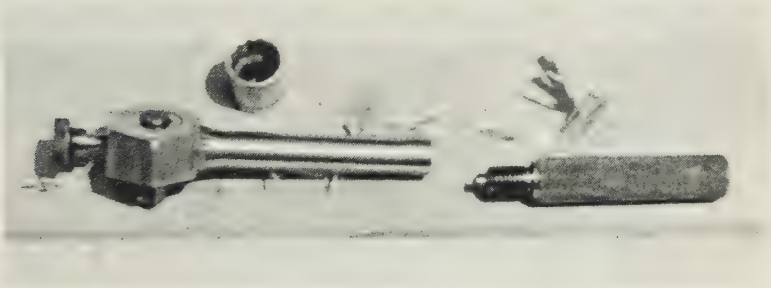
CREDIT: Robert Koch

A WWII Liberator pistol with fabricated silencer — not an issue accessory.



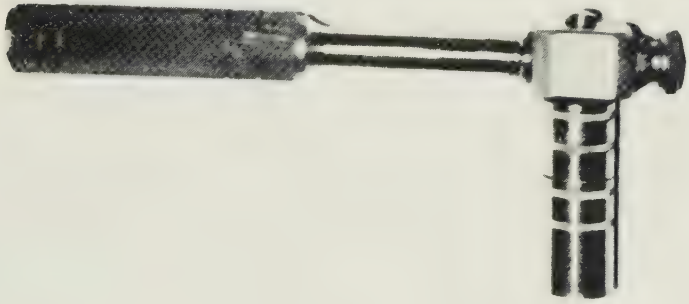
CREDIT: The White Star Mission

Top view of the recently produced .22 wrench pistol, copied from the OSS design, which is currently in use with some agents.



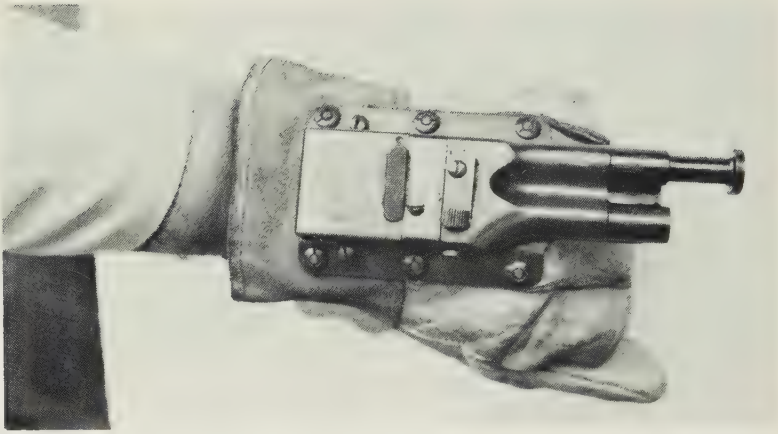
CREDIT: The White Star Mission

After testing, the assassin's pistol, the old OSS ratchet wrench design, is disassembled, and shown with groupings and exit damage using .22 rimfire magnum ammunition at ten feet.

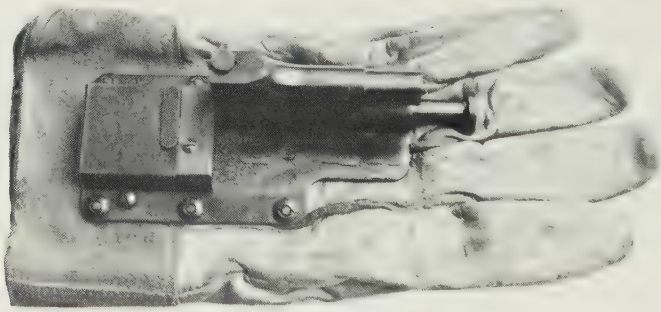


CREDIT: Gov. Gordon Persons

The OSS "wrench pistol", a prototype design.



CREDIT: Maj. Richard Keogh
Man prepares to fire the ONI fist gun.

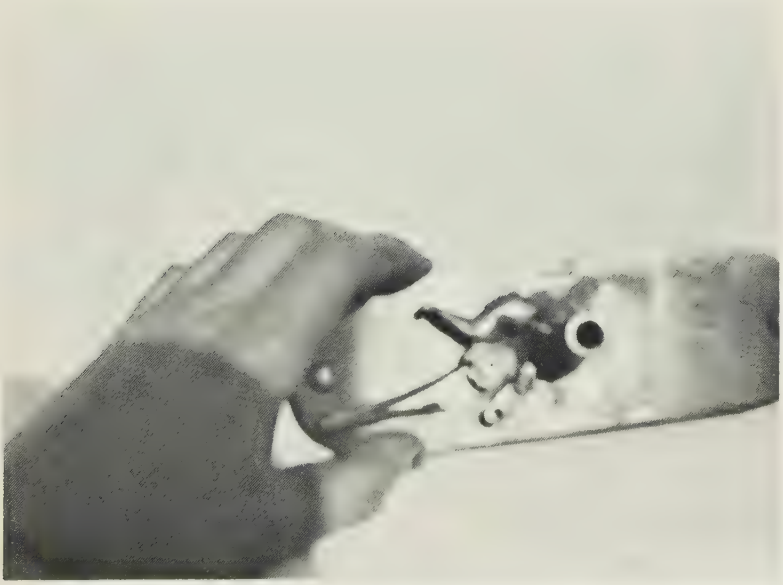


CREDIT: Major Richard Keogh
The ONI fist gun opened for loading.

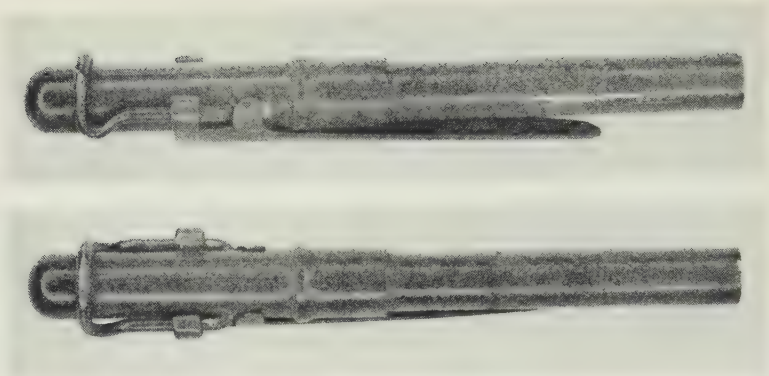
CREDIT: Ajax Plumbers, Ltd.

This sanitized can gun is ideal for espionage operations. Although designed to fire a .410 shotgun shell, it will digest a .45 ACP cartridge or a .303 British cartridge with adapters. Shown in the extended position — ready to fire. Trombone action.

CREDIT: Frank Walsingham
Cocked

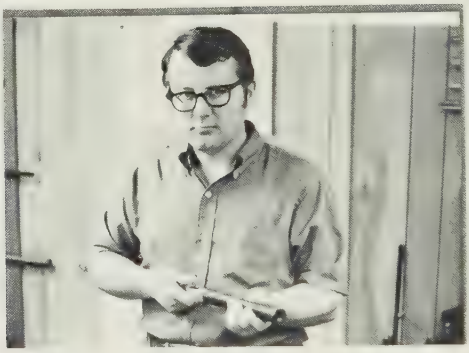


Fired



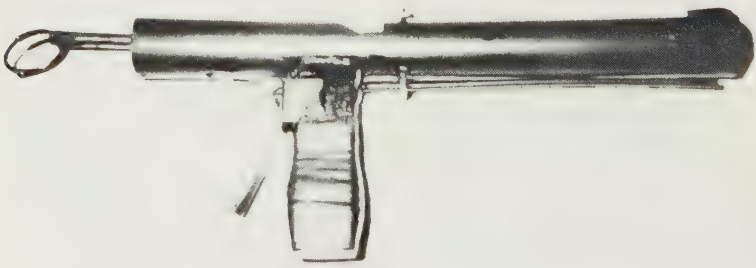
CREDIT: OSS Archives

The O.S.S. Stinger, T-2.



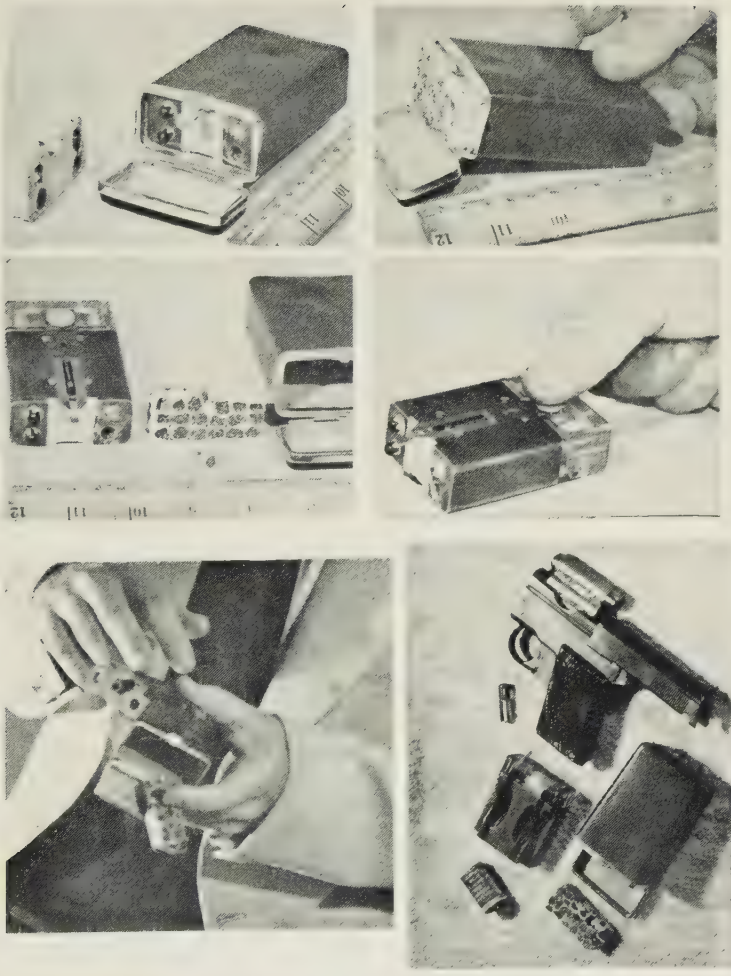
CREDIT: Donald G. Thomas

Author Truby with a prototype silenced Stinger at the MAC plant in Marietta, Ga.



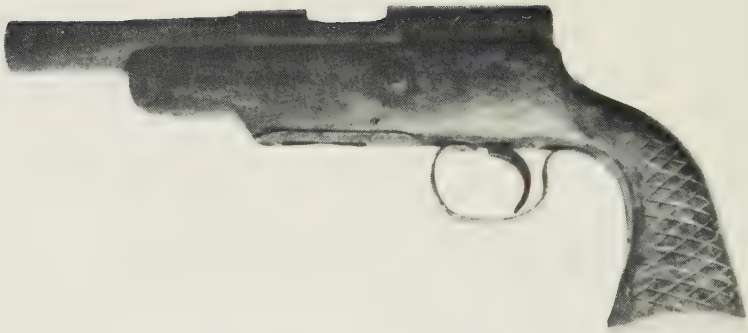
CREDIT: John Minnery

The Librod pistol, a .22 calibre hybrid of the Welrod-Liberator genre . . . invented by a Canadian ordnance expert, it's an ideal assassination pistol.

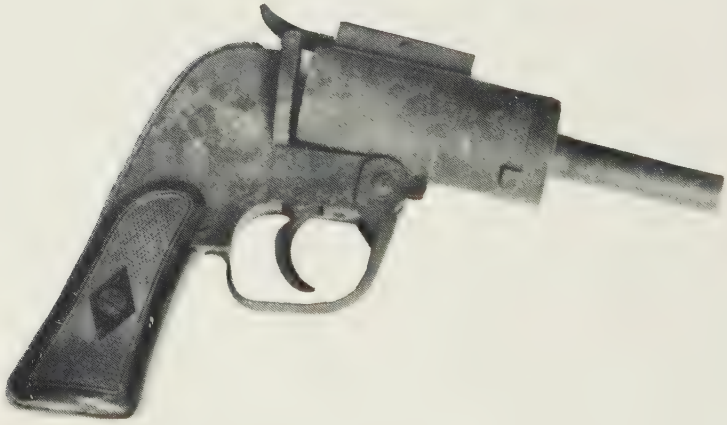


CREDIT: Keystone Press
Soviet poison bullet weapons.

Special Photographs

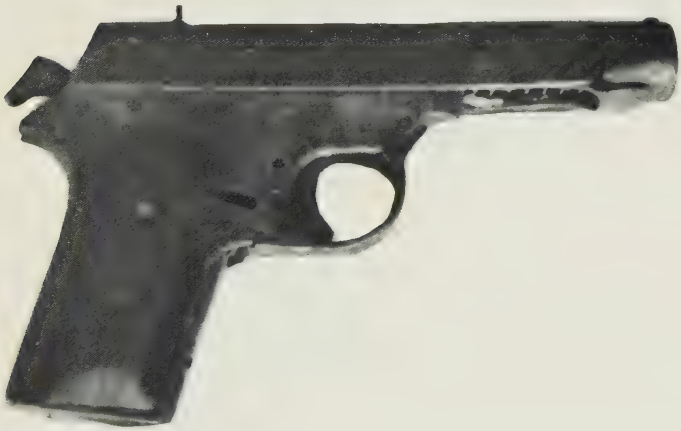


CREDIT: Maj. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, Philippine Constabulary
This was once a new Winchester .22 calibre rifle, which some HUK guerrilla converted to a murderous pistol.



CREDIT: Lt. Col. D. C. Villanueva, A.F.P.
Originally a U.S. flare gun, this weapon is now a .22 pistol using a salvaged .22 rifle barrel.

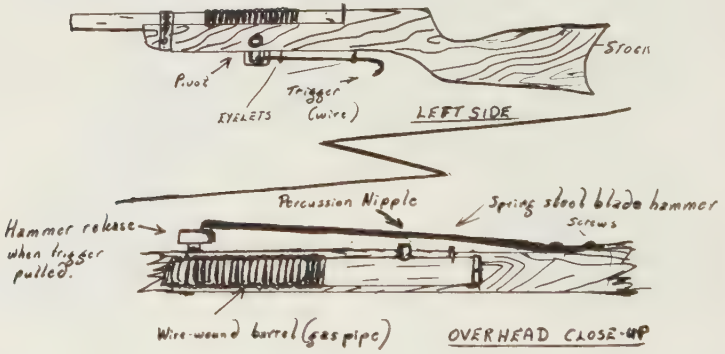
CREDIT: Maj. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, Philippine Constabulary
A fairly common locally produced pistol during the middle 1960s, this 6-shot .22 calibre revolver still shows up in weapons' sweeps.



CREDIT: Lt. Col. D. C. Villanueva, A.F.P.
This illegal pistol was produced by the Cavitenos shortly after the liberation of the Philippines, and have turned up in a number of crimes and have also been captured with political activists. It fires six rounds of .45 calibre ACP.

CREDIT: David Drummond
Two examples of homemade rifles captured during the Mau Mau uprising of the early '50s.

CREDIT: Chicago Police Department
This cutdown M1 carbine, produced commercially, was confiscated during a raid on a suspected terrorist group. There was some evidence its owners were trying to convert it to fire in the fully automatic mode.

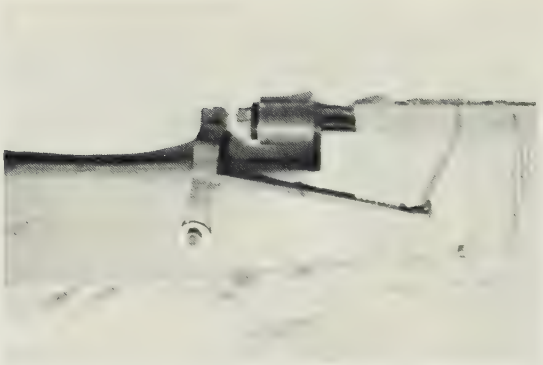


CREDIT: The Museum of the Revolution, Moscow)
An improvised side-hammer weapon used by the Communist forces in the Revolution, USSR, 1917.

CREDIT: Lt. Col. D. C. Villanueva, Armed Forces of the Philippines
A Twelve gauge single shot "Paltic" shotgun captured from Philippine rebels.

CREDIT: Lt. Col. D. C. Villanueva, Armed Forces of the Philippines
This 16 gauge homemade "Paltic" shotgun uses portions of an M16 rifle, with scrap parts, to produce a sophisticated, 6-shot weapon with a revolving cylinder.

CREDIT: Lt. Col. D. C. Villanueva, Armed Forces of the Philippines
This modified bolt-action 12 gauge shotgun has an extension-type stock and a homemade, long barrel.

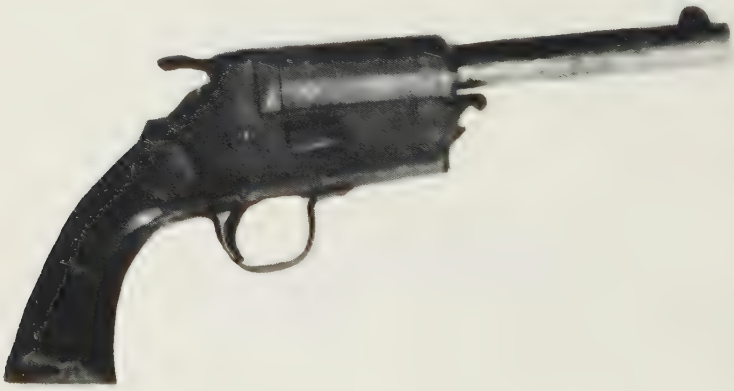


CREDIT: Glen Haven Boarding House Alumni

The action of the 12 gauge guerrilla gun — showing hammer, striker (which is a nail), and the end cap breech.

CREDIT: Glen Haven Boarding House Alumni

Example of the type of 12 gauge guerrilla shotgun that Special Forces personnel and S.F. alums are taught how to make, so as to instruct friendly guerrilla troops in its construction and use.



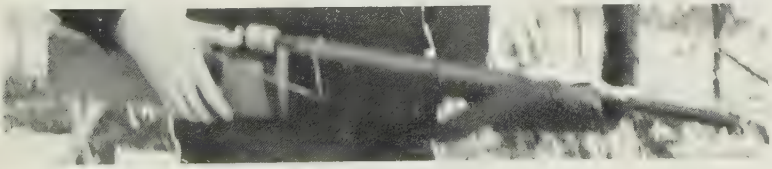
CREDIT: Lt. Col. D. C. Villanueva, A.F.P.

This single shot, 16 gauge shotshell pistol was liberated by the Philippine Army from a political terrorist.

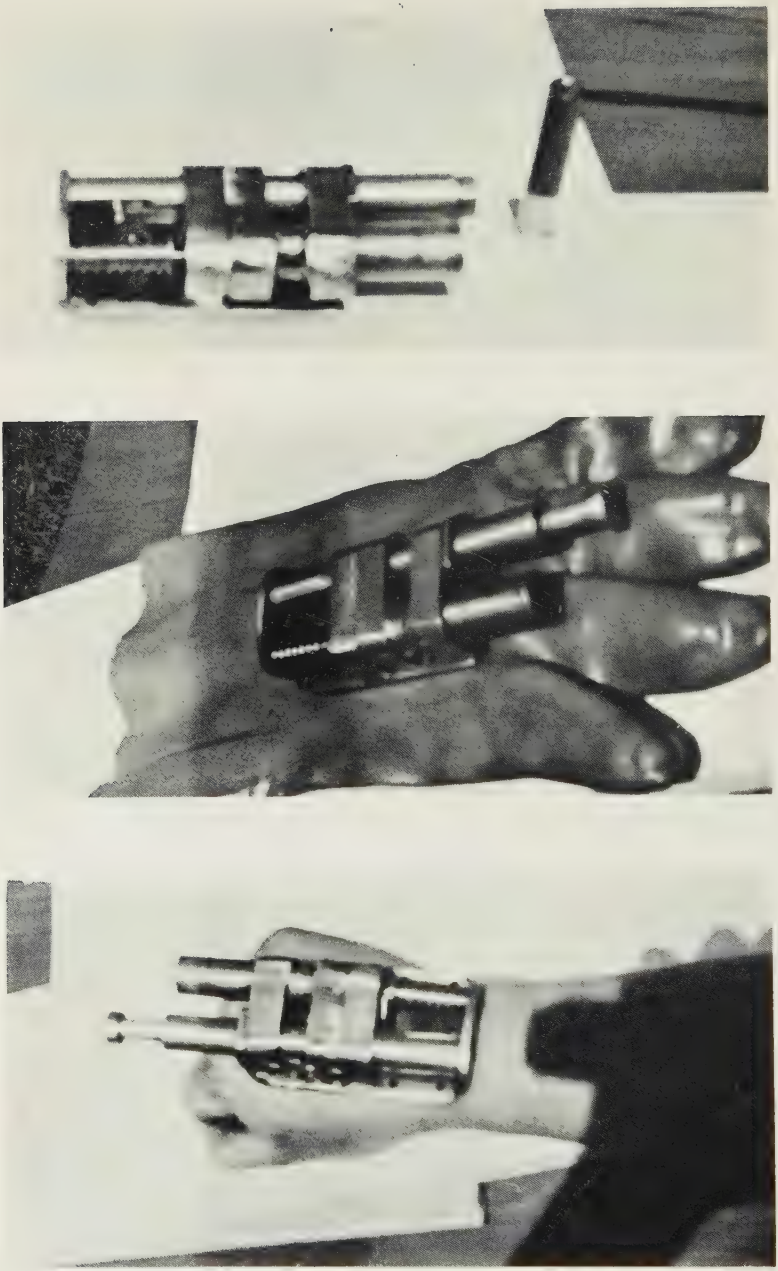
CREDIT: J. David Truby
Top view of the home-built Indonesian Sten gun.

CREDIT: J. David Truby
A 9mm home-built Indonesian Sten gun produced during one of the many fights for independence.

CREDIT: John Pullen
Indonesian rebels and others with needs for illegal weapons produced their copies of the Sten gun.

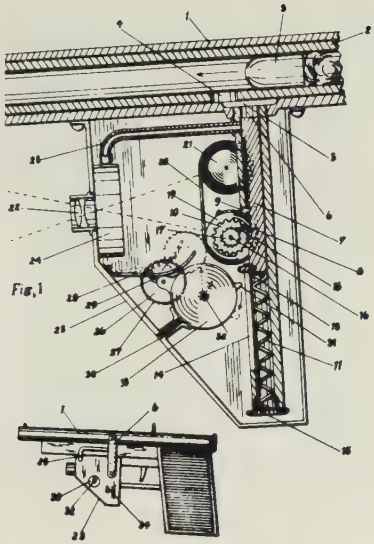


CREDIT: J. David Truby
A homemade .12 gauge shotgun made from pipe and scrap wood.



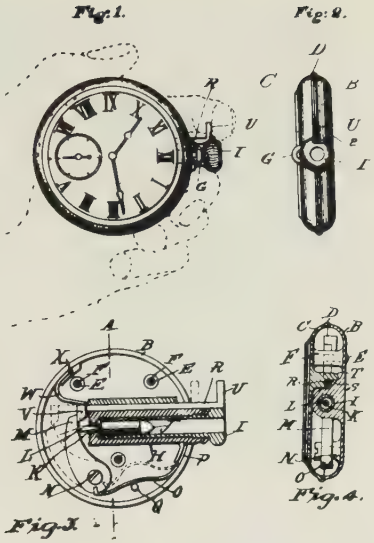
CREDIT: J. David ***Truby***

The ONI Fist Gun idea has been used by domestic terrorists, too. This .410 model was built by a non gunsmith . . . and, it works all too well.



CREDIT: U.S. Patent Office

Patent sketch for a camera inside a gun.

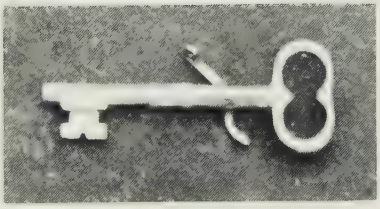


CREDIT: U.S. Patent Office

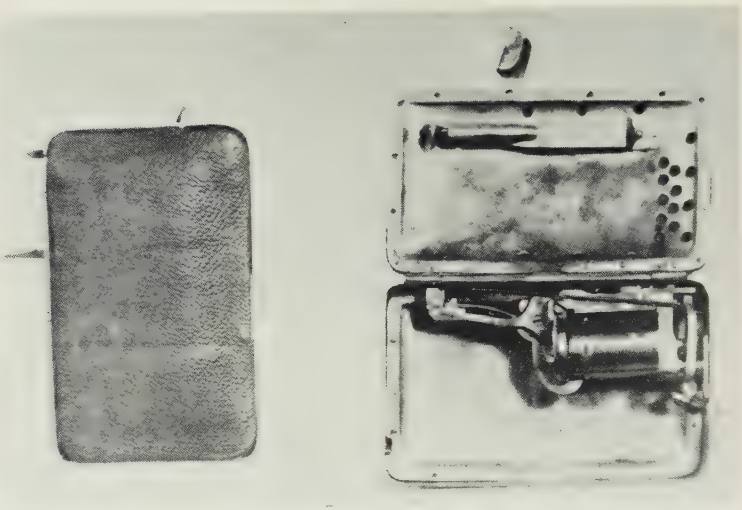
Leonard Woods' patent for a gun inside a pocket watch.

CREDIT:
The National Geographic Society

Doge Francesco Morosini had a concealed pistol in his prayer book during the 17th century. The small knob-like bookmark was the trigger.



Key Pistol



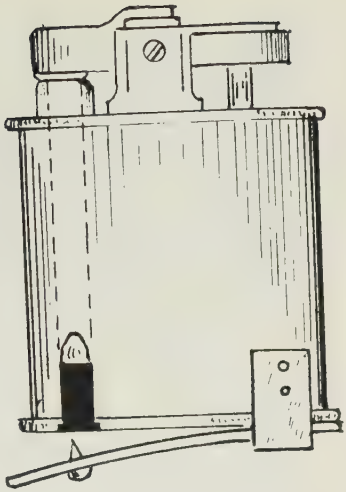
CREDIT: H. P. White
A very early example of the disguised hidden gun — the Frankenau Pocketbook gun in 5mm pinfire.

CREDIT: Lewis Winant, courtesy of Ray Riling
The Colvin Sword-pistol.

CREDIT: Dr. W. R. Funderburg, courtesy of Ray Riling.
A flintlock cane gun in a private collection.

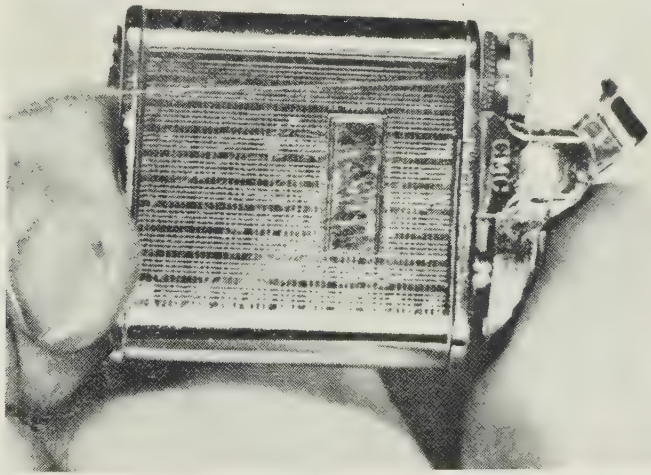
CREDIT: Pennsylvania State Police

Photo of innocent-looking cigarette lighter — note thumb-depressing trigger, which exposes the stubby barrel (left) of a deadly .22 calibre firearm.



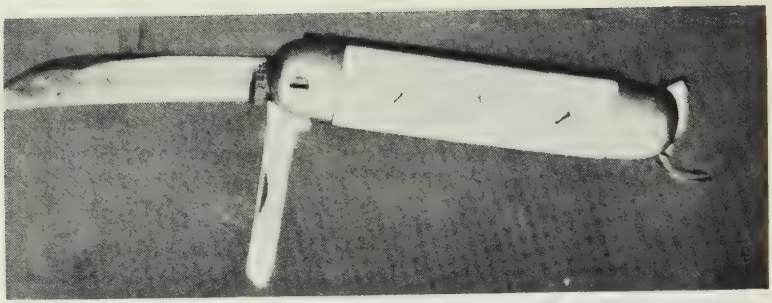
CREDIT: J. David Truby

Sketch of cigarette lighter pistol design advocated by various terrorist groups for use as a hidden firearm against their plethora of enemies.

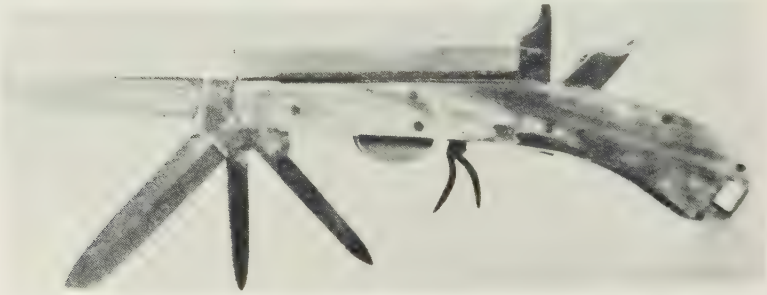


CREDIT: Pennsylvania State Police

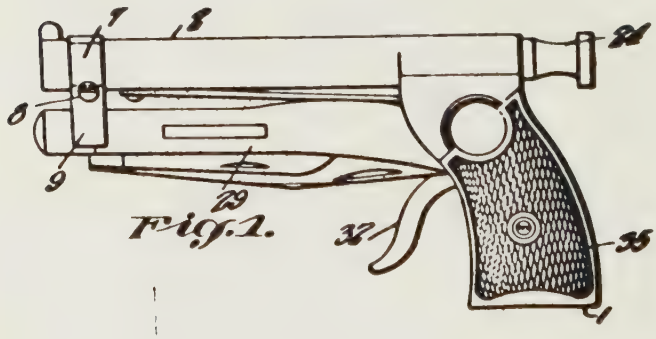
A professionally-done conversion of a pocket lighter turned it into a very lethal .22 calibre pistol.



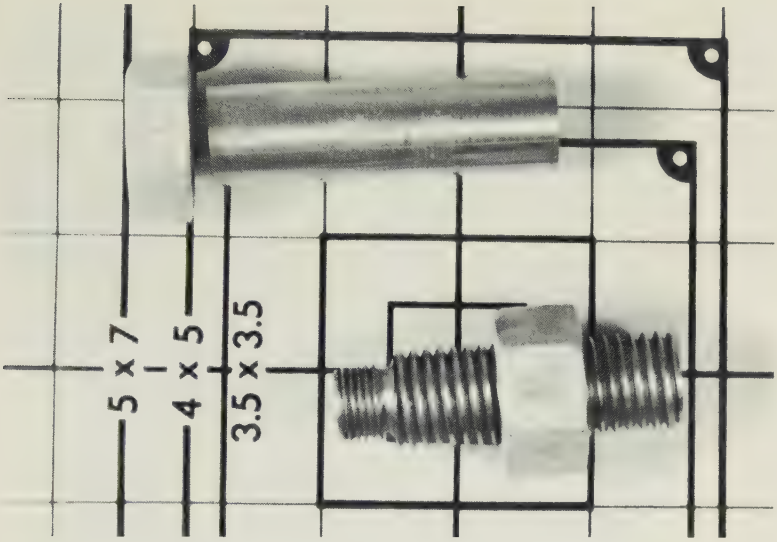
CREDIT: Frank Horner, courtesy of Ray Riling.
A disguised knife pistol now in a private collection.



CREDIT: Lewis Winant, courtesy of Ray Riling
The James Rodgers Knife Pistol.

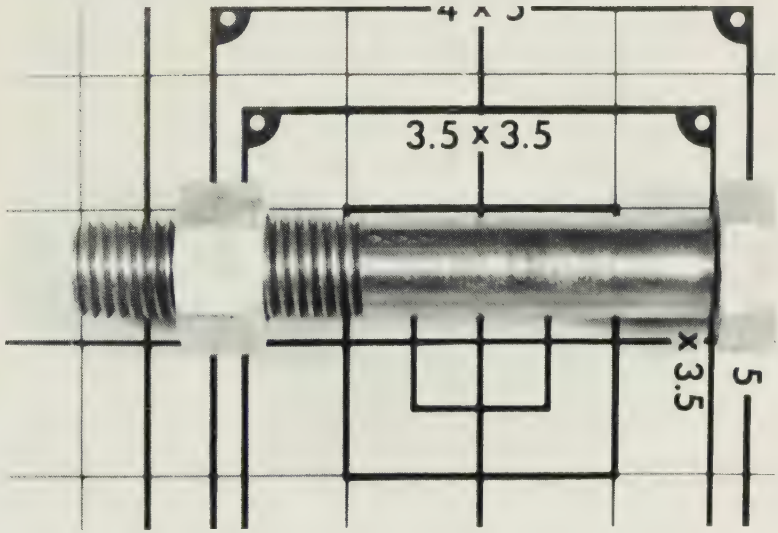


CREDIT: U.S. Patent Office
Patent sketch of representative knife firearm combination, designed in 1924 by L. E. Polhemus.



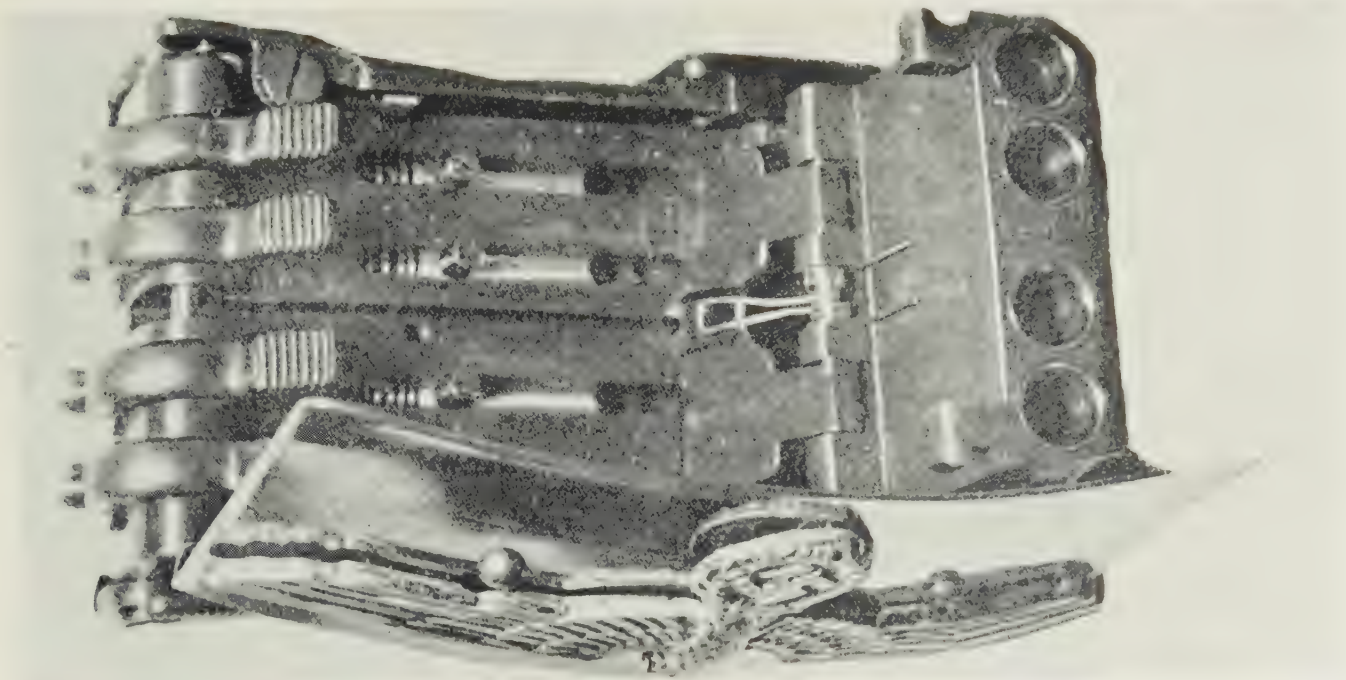
CREDIT: Det. John Tribe

.22 cal. Bolt Gun unthreaded for loading. (hex head pulled slightly back.)



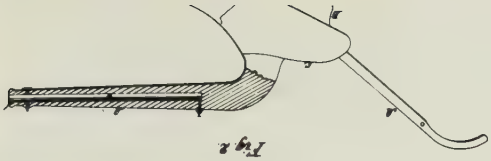
CREDIT: Det. John Tribe

.22 Bolt Gun assembled ready to fire. Actually fired 4 test rounds.

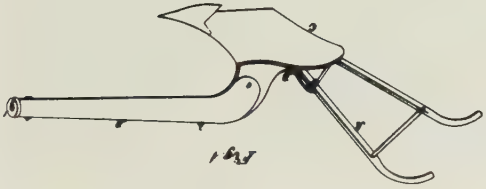


CREDIT: Gov. Gordon Persons

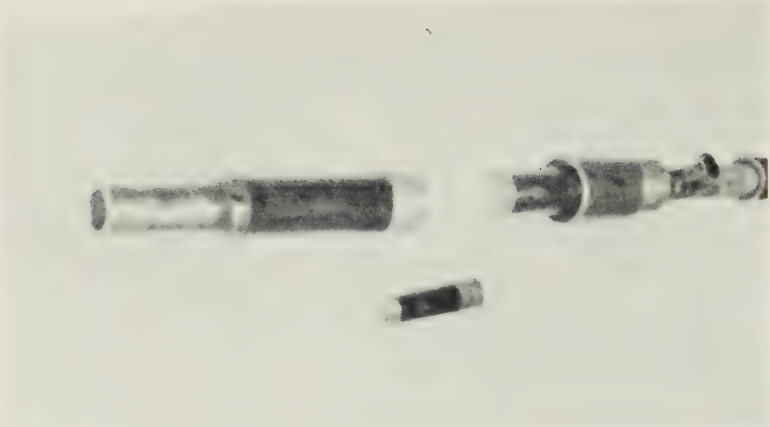
Nazi belt buckle gun, with 4 barrels. Several fakes made in Austria have appeared since the war.



CREDIT:
U.S. Patent Office
An unusual disguised gun — the plow gun of 1862.



CREDIT:
Popular Science Monthly
Consumer ad for public sale of the "Huntsman" knife pistol combination.



CREDIT: John A. Minnery
12 gauge shotgun made from scrap pipe by a prison inmate.

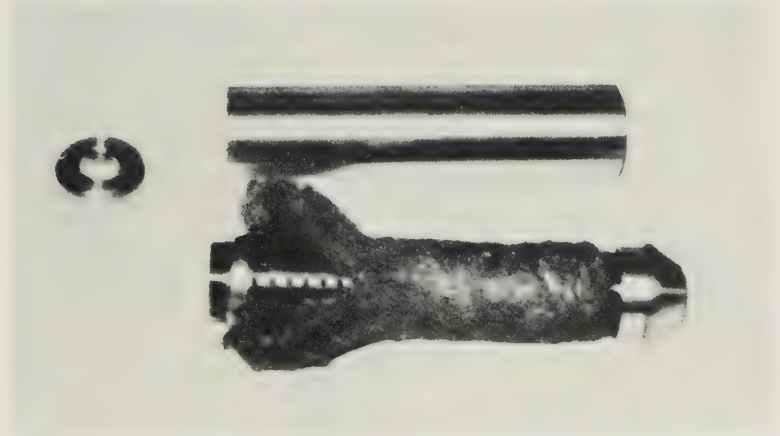
CREDIT: J. David Truby
Hollywood shows what its propmaster have in mind for prison-made weapons, from the film "Canon City," an actual Colorado prison. The actor at left is the then-young Scott Brady. He's holding a mammoth zip gun, while the other two actor-convicts have pipe guns.

CREDIT: John A. Minnery

Two prison-made .22 pentype guns. The upper one has a lever trigger very much like the Soviet Department V *Squid* assassination gun. The lower pengun uses a pull release.

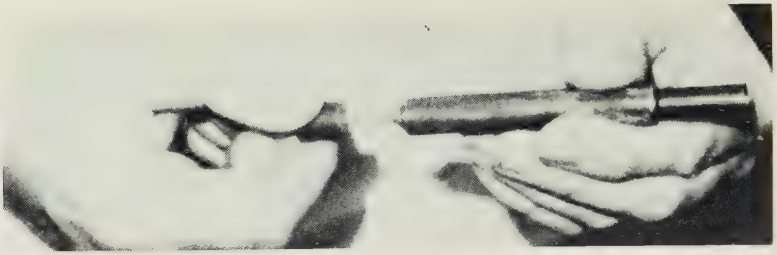
CREDIT: John Tighe

Disassembled 12 gauge "Collins Bay" shotgun, made in prison to use smuggled in cartridge.

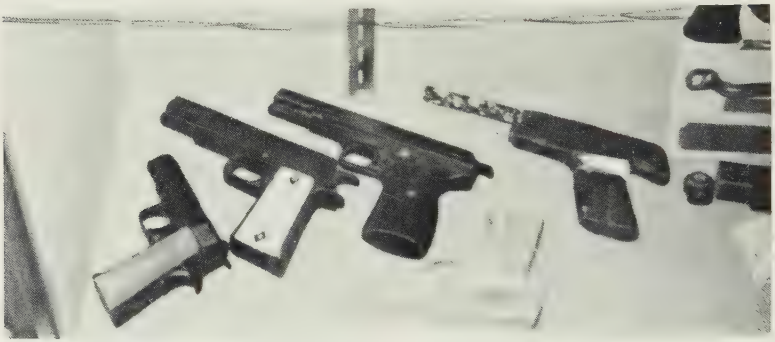


CREDIT: John Tighe

The disassembled prison-made silencer used steel wool, end caps, and gas escape holes — obviously, the maker knew the business of silencing firearms.

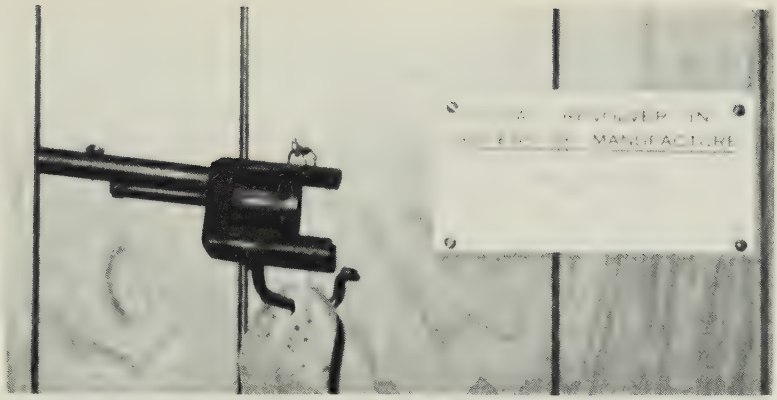


CREDIT: John Tighe
A prison-made firearm of the pen gun type fired a .22 calibre cartridge.

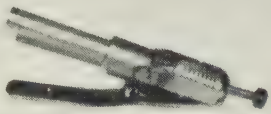


CREDIT: John A. Minnery
Collection of "ruse" pistols, fakes made by inmates of Canadian prisons, ala the infamous gun carved by John Dillinger.

CREDIT: Canadian Penitentiary Service Museum
Homemade guns used by prisoners of various Canadian penitentiaries.

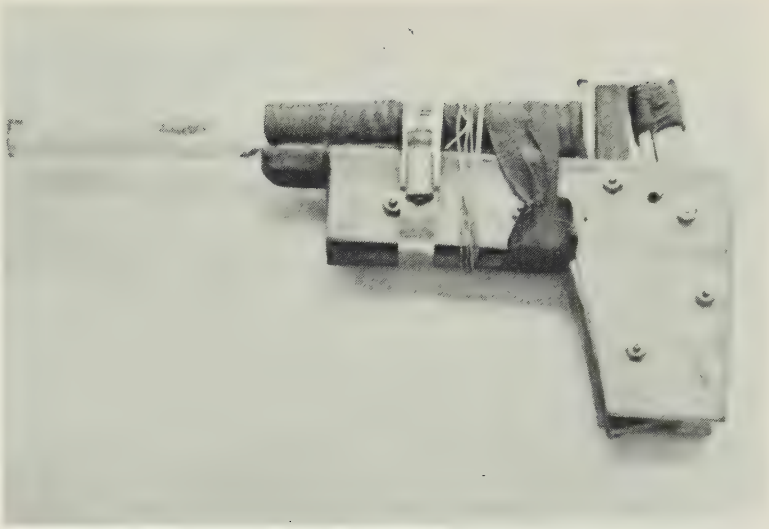


CREDIT: John Tighe, Correctional Staff College Museum (Canada)
Photo shows half completed (difficult half by the way) .38 cal. revolver recovered in prison search.



CREDIT: John Tighe, Correctional Staff College Museum (Canada)
Lever release .22 zipgun showing similarity to Soviet SQUID pistol.

CREDIT: BATF
Two fully automatic conversions made from spare parts and improvisations. Top example is an M1 carbine converted to automatic with assault rifle parts soldered on for effect. Below, 9mm machine gun was produced in a *prison workshop!* The 30-shot, fully automatic, blowback action gun worked perfectly.

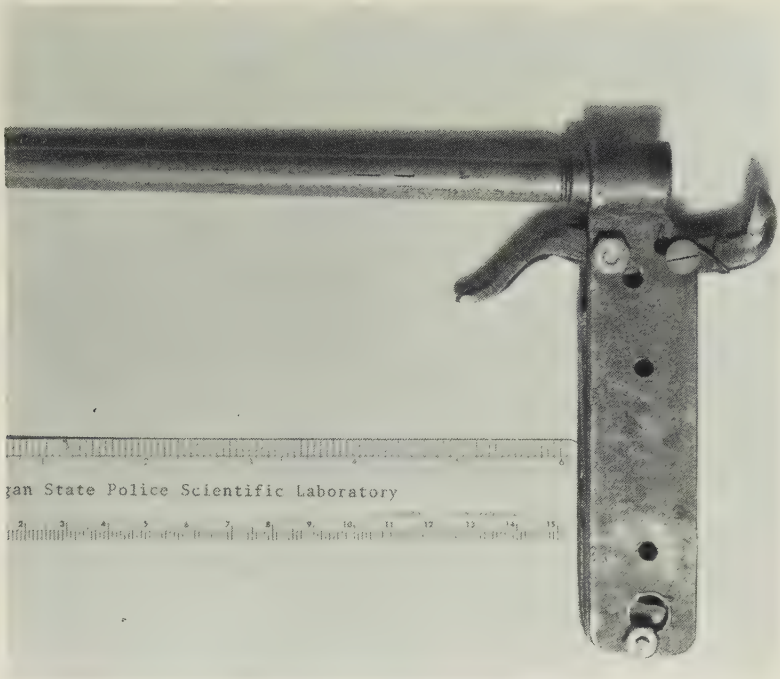


CREDIT: Paul W. Wells

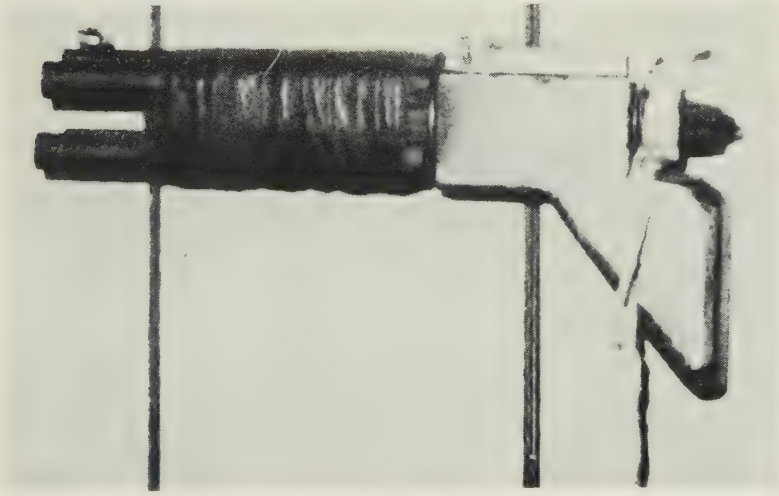
This 20 gauge shotgun, homemade in the shop of Camp No. 5, was used in a prison break at that Mississippi prison. It wounded on guard. It's owner is now out of the gun designing and building business, permanently.

CREDIT: Mississippi State Penitentiary

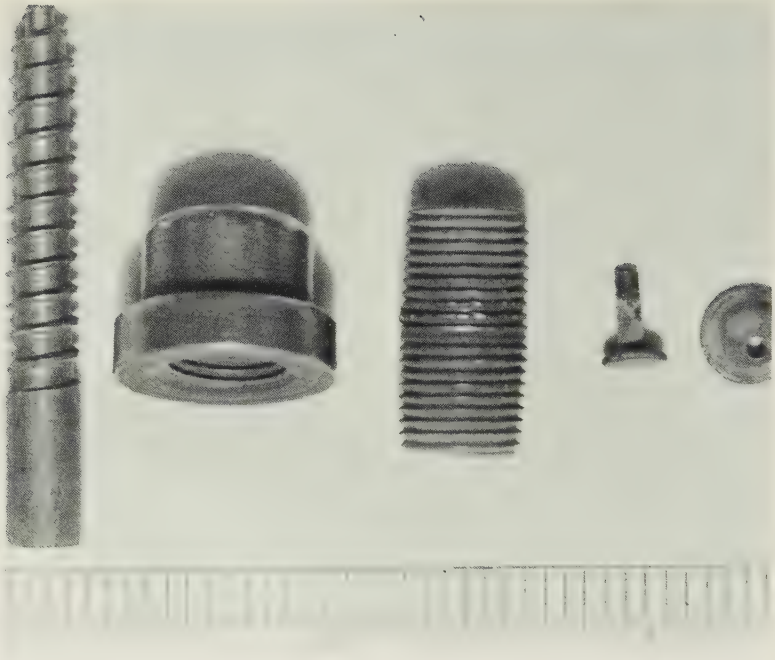
Strict weapon enforcement did not keep a Mississippi prison inmate from scrounging the materials to make this firearm.



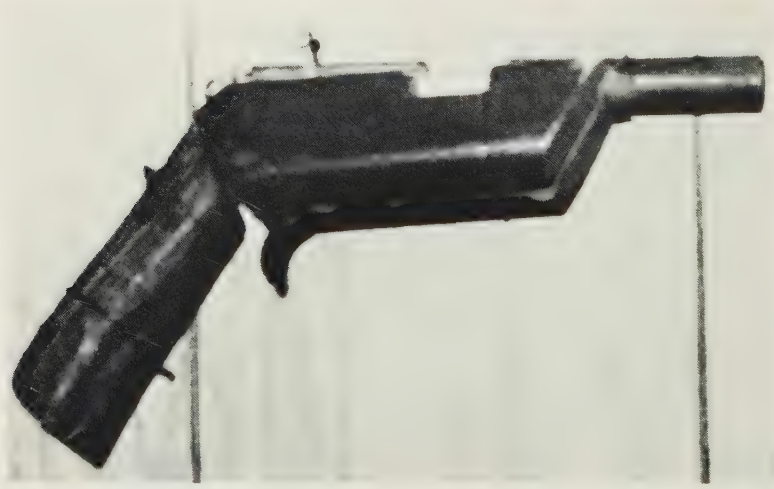
CREDIT: David Townshend, Michigan State Police
The assembled weapon, made by a Michigan convict, fired a wood screw bullet.



CREDIT: John Tighe
Four shot, .32 calibre handgun captured in a Canadian prison.

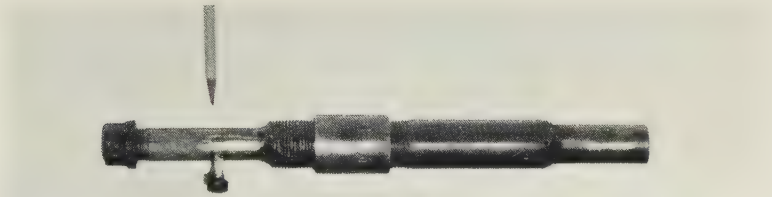


CREDIT: David Townshend, Michigan State Police
The disassembled homemade cartridge used in the Michigan convict's gun.

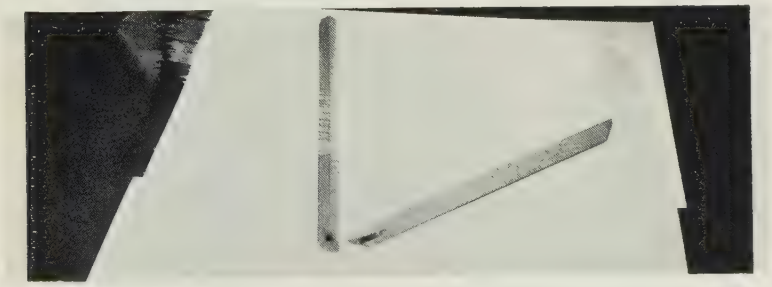


CREDIT: John Tighe
A bolt action .22 calibre zip gun from a Canadian prison.

CREDIT: John A. Minnery
Firing the prison-made .22 pengun by squeezing the lever which releases a cocked striker.

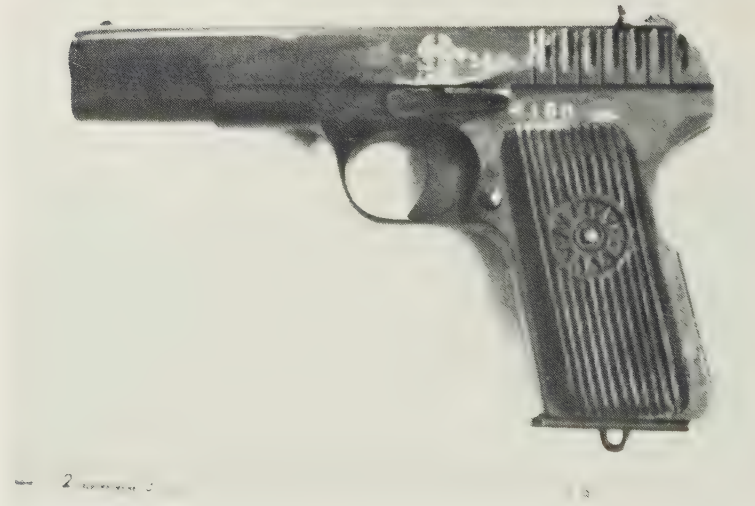


CREDIT: John Tighe, Correctional Staff College Museum, Canada.
12 ga. weapon made in prison (Collins Bay) pencil points to striker bolt in its L' shot (similar to pen-gun firing) This weapon was recovered by authorities after an anonymous letter was delivered to the warden's office.



CREDIT: John Tighe, Correctional Staff College Museum of Canada
Parts of picture frame were hollowed out to conceal .22 ammunition that was smuggled into a Canadian prison.

CREDIT: Maj. Richard Keogh
Long-barreled copy of the Mauser carbine, as done by the Chinese, probably in their Taku Naval Yard.



CREDIT: Major Richard Keogh, courtesy of AUTO MAG
Chinese copy of the Soviet Tokarev pistol.

CREDIT: U.S. Army

Illustrated handbook to be issued to friendly "resistance and guerilla" groups shows how to make, load, and fire improvised weapons. The U.S. Army borrowed many of the basic designs from Viet Cong homemade weapons. This series shows the cocking, firing, and unloading of the spent shell while using the 9mm handmade pistol. Two photos of two different models.

HOW TO OPERATE SHOTGUN

1. To Load

a. Take plug out of coupling.

b. Put shotgun shell into pipe.

c. Screw plug hand-tight into coupling.

2. To Fire

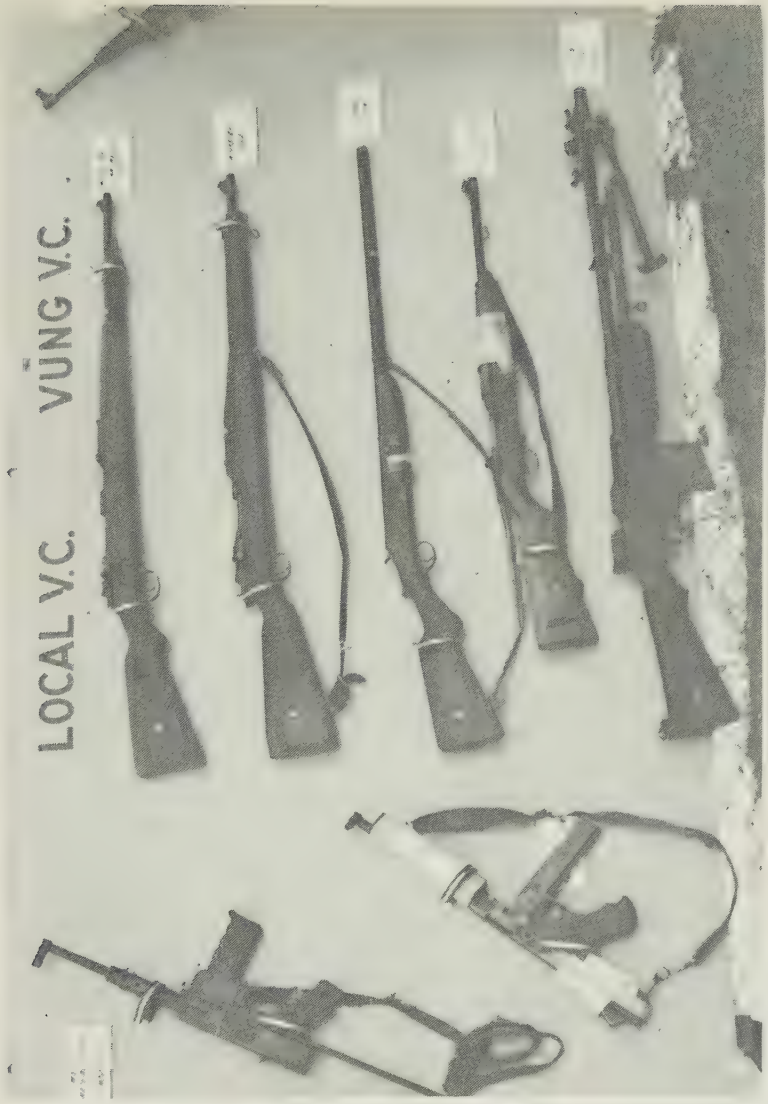
a. Pull strap back and hold with thumb.

CREDIT: U.S. Army

"How to operate the homemade shotgun" — instructions from the U.S. Army in a handbook to be issued to "friendlies" operating behind enemy lines or in other guerilla or resistance operations.

CREDIT: U.S. Army

Same as shotgun — only for the homemade rifle.



CREDIT: U.S. Army

Homemade and modified weapons captured from the Viet Cong by members of the 1st Air Cav Division late in 1965.

CREDIT: U.S. Army

This display board shows some of the weapons captured by the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam in 1965. Included are a number of modifications and improvisations.

A closer look at the upper left rear of the VC copy, upper, shows many of the differences. For example, the thumb safety — non-functional on the copy — has no corresponding notch on the slide into which it can move

CREDIT: John P. Wilson

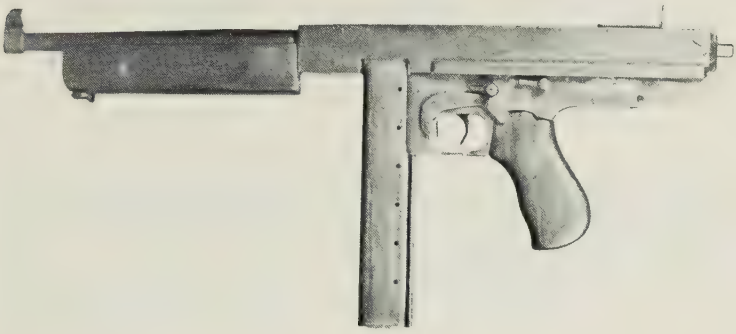
Two comparison photos show the difference between (top) a Viet Cong copy of a U.S. .45 pistol, and the real item (bottom). For one thing, the thumb safety has no corresponding notch on the copy.

CREDIT: John P. Wilson

M Sgt. John P. Wilson of 5th Special Forces Group examines crude, but still lethal, Viet Cong version of the U.S. service pistol.

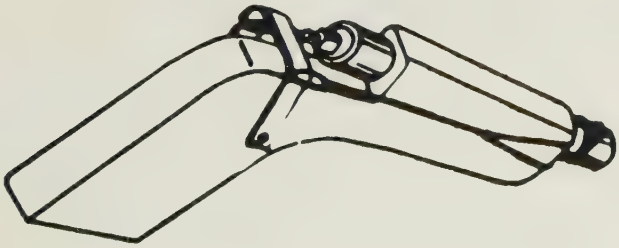
CREDIT: West Point Museum

Another Viet Cong version, basically, of the Thompson submachine gun.



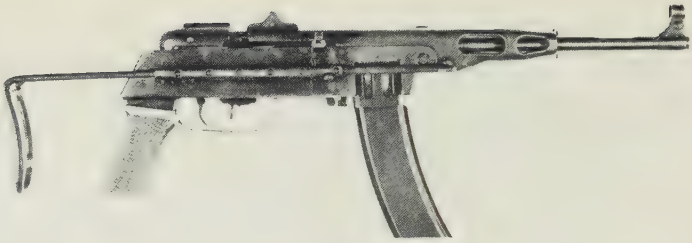
CREDIT: West Point Museum

Army ordnance officers class this VC copy of the Thompson "very well made . . . it came from a shop 'up north'."



CREDIT: U.S. Army

Sketch of a waterpipe pistol which may be easily made by "friendly" resistance troops.

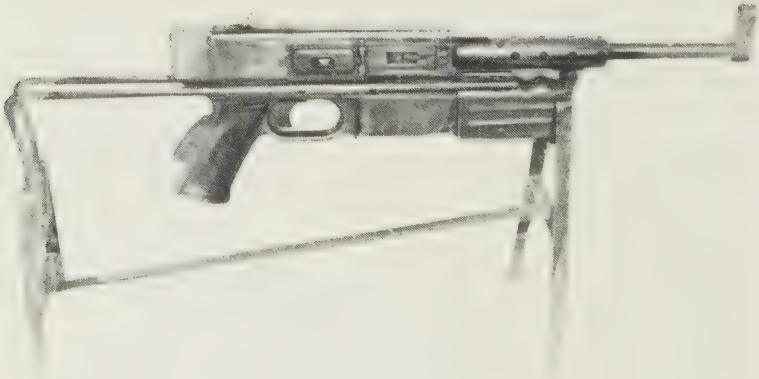


CREDIT: West Point Museum, USMA

A ChiCom submachine gun modified for use by the Vietnamese — the Model 50.

CREDIT: West Point Museum, USMA

A Viet Cong modified MAT 49 submachine gun, left behind by the French, then turned on Americans.



CREDIT: Tom Swearengen

A French MAT 49 smg, as modified by the Viet Cong. This weapon was captured in Darlac Province.

CREDIT: Major Richard Keogh

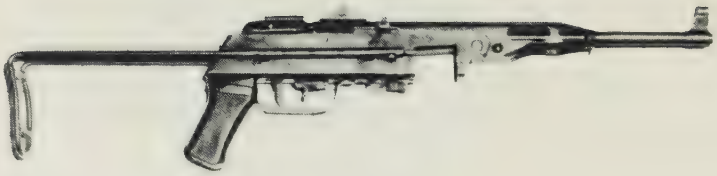
Stripped Viet Cong pistol which is copy of M1911A1.

CREDIT: U.S. Army

Homemade rifle captured in Vietnam.

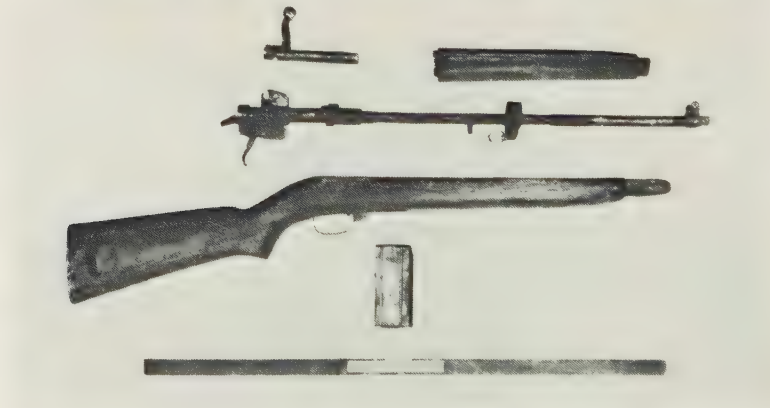
CREDIT: Tom Swearengen

Yet another copy of the Thompson submachine gun as produced in a Viet Cong gunshop.

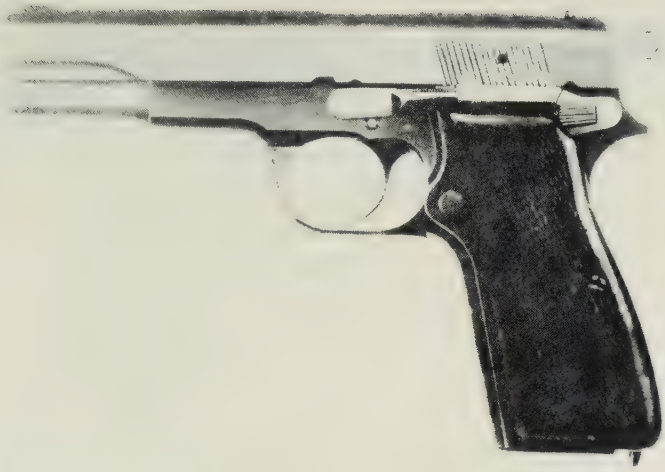


CREDIT: Frank Moyer
Viet Cong modified version of the Chi-Com Model 50 submachine gun.

CREDIT: Tom Swearengen
An unusual trophy of the Vietnamese war, this weapon is a copymf the famed Beretta Model 12 smg, which was produced in an Indonesian "underground" weapons shop. It turned up, somehow, with the Viet Cong, and was captured by U.S. Marines at Tay Ninh.



CREDIT: Tom Swearengen
The VC copy of the M1 carbine — stripped. The M-1 carbine was a status symbol among the V.C. The design suited their small frame.



CREDIT: U.S. Army Foreign Science & Technology Center
The famous Browning 9mm military pistol was copied by the Viet Cong in their effort to build a battle-proved arsenal. A popular design throughout Asia.

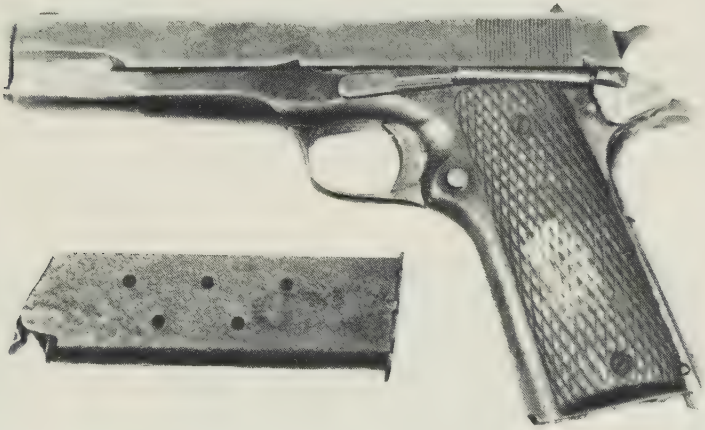
CREDIT: Richard Brezner, courtesy of AUTO MAG.
A South East Asia copy of the U.S. 1911 pistol, this weapon was described by its former owner as being completely handmade. The straight blow-back weapon handles the .45 ACP cartridge.

CREDIT: Keogh
9mm pistol captured near Can Tho, 1967 — carried by V.C. political officer.

CREDIT: U.S. Army
One of the famous Cao Dai firearm copies — a 9mm version of the US M1911A1 pistol, liberated in S. Vietnam.

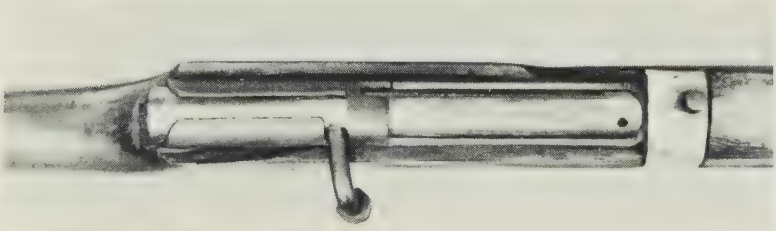
CREDIT: U.S. Army

Soviet 1944 Mosin Nagant carbine in 7.62 mm. This weapon, as modified, is also known as the ChiCom Type 53. This particular weapon was captured in Vietnam in January of 1967.



CREDIT: Major Richard Keogh

A Viet Cong jungle gunsmith produced this excellent copy of a .45 M1911A1 pistol.



CREDIT: John Wootters

Top view of the receiver of the homemade rifle described by John Wootters.

CREDIT: Frank C. Brown
Frank Brown with an M-203 — combination M16 and M79, used in Vietnam mainly by Marines of the 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company . . . but, also loaned to friends.

CREDIT: John Wootters
Writer John Wootters examines an original VC rifle brought back by an Army vet of that war.

CREDIT: Frank C. Brown

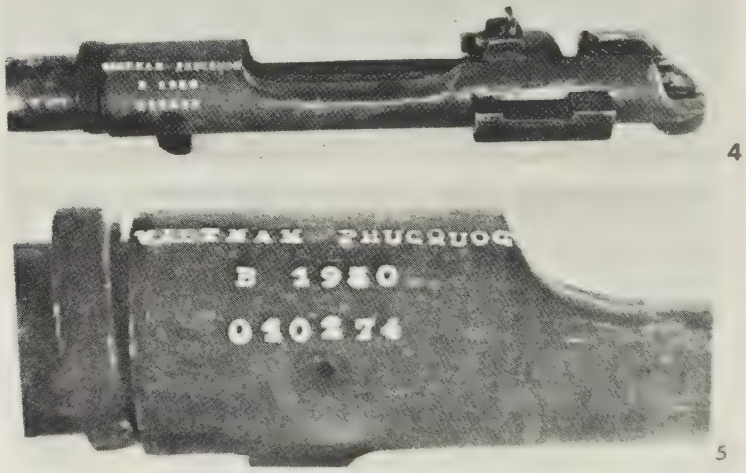
Two Vietnamese scouts working with U.S. forces on clandestine missions . . . favorite weapon was chopped down M-2 carbine, with pistol grip, stubby barrel, and homemade stock.

CREDIT: John Wootters

Top is an original Springfield '03 rifle made at the U.S. Armory. The bottom is the plate of the VC copy of a Springfield rifle.

CREDIT: John Wootters

Handmade Viet Cong gun fires various cartridges through a iron pipe barrel of ½-inch bore. The line of the rifle seems a mite crooked, as well.



CREDIT: John Wootters

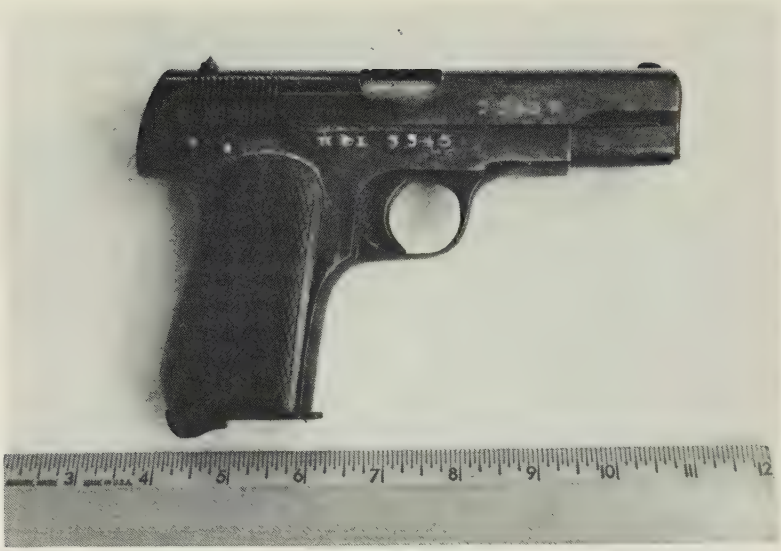
Top photo is a Viet Cong copy of a Mauser action receiver, while the bottom shot shows the identification close-up.

CREDIT: U.S. Army Foreign Science & Technology Center

A captured Viet Cong shotgun made from waterpipe and wood in a village area. Tested in the field and rated as unsafe to fire.

CREDIT: Frank C. Brown
Close-up of the chopped-down M-2 carbine favored some South Vietnamese.

CREDIT: Frank C. Brown
Captured VC ordnance included several weapons made in jungle workshops — including modified MAT 49 smgs and drastically cut-down U.S. CARBINES.

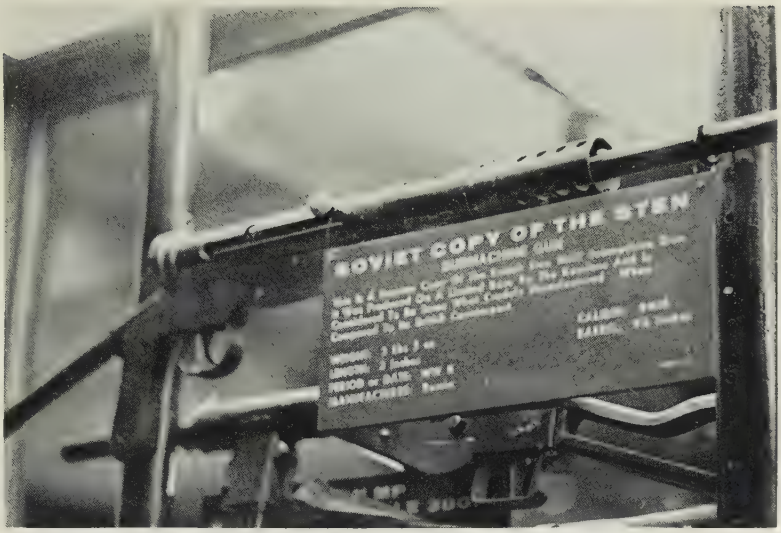


CREDIT: Maj. Richard Keogh

The ChiCom version of the *Sugiura* 8mm pistol. The only difference is in the markings, according to Maj. Keogh.

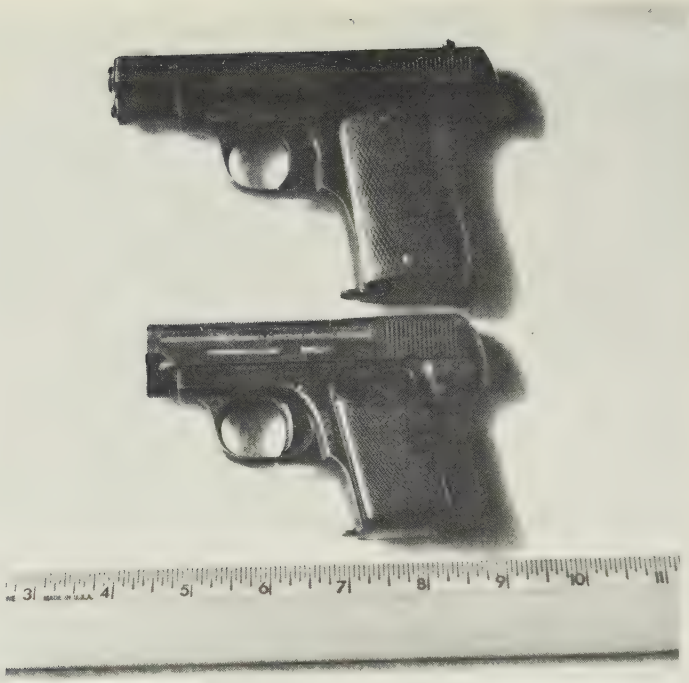
CREDIT: R. L. Hermann, courtesy of AUTO MAG.

Asiatic copy of Browning Model 1900 in .32 ACP.



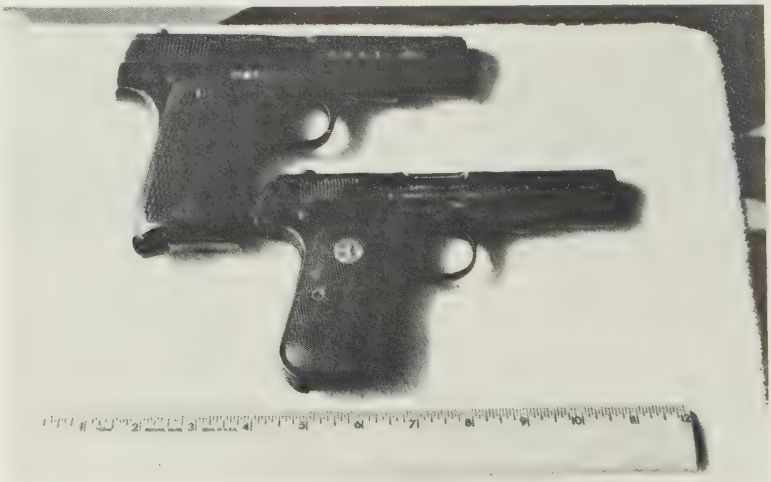
CREDIT: J. David Truby

Now on display at the Museum, Aberdeen Proving Ground, this rare Sten copy was made in Russia. The Russian Stens were used by partisans and some reserve units in WWII. They are crudely manufactured, but highly effective, copies. Behind the Soviet Sten is the German copy, the MP3008.



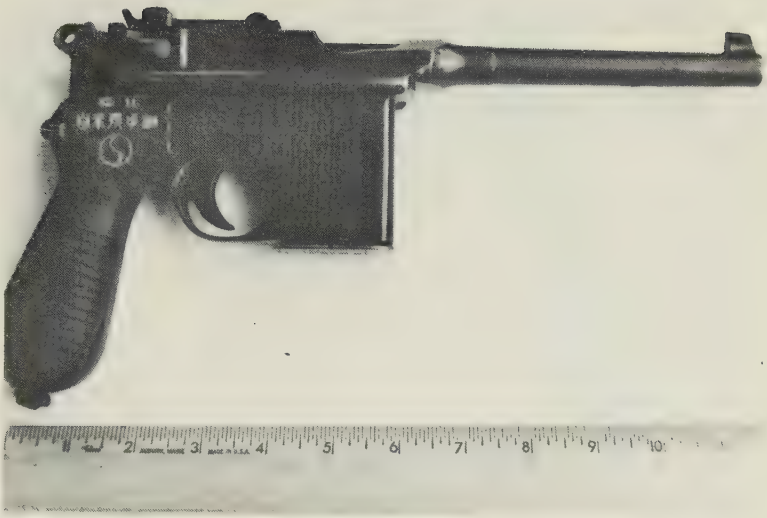
CREDIT: Major Richard Keogh

Sugiura 6.35mm pistol, ser. No. 224, on top, is compared to an FN Browning pistol of the same calibre — bottom.

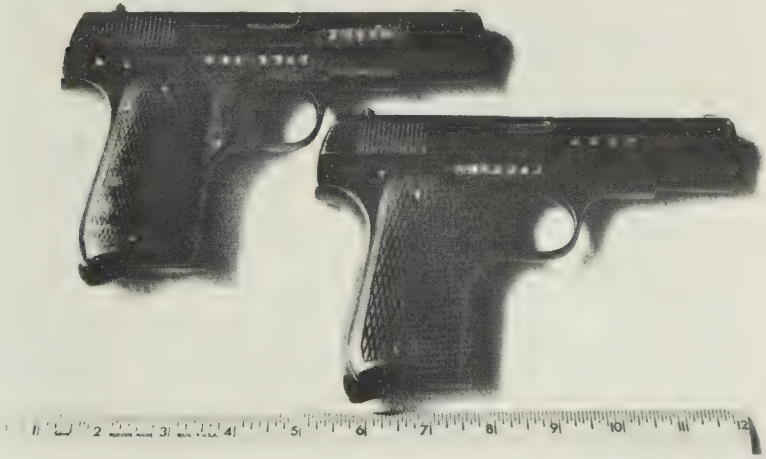


CREDIT: Major Richard Keogh

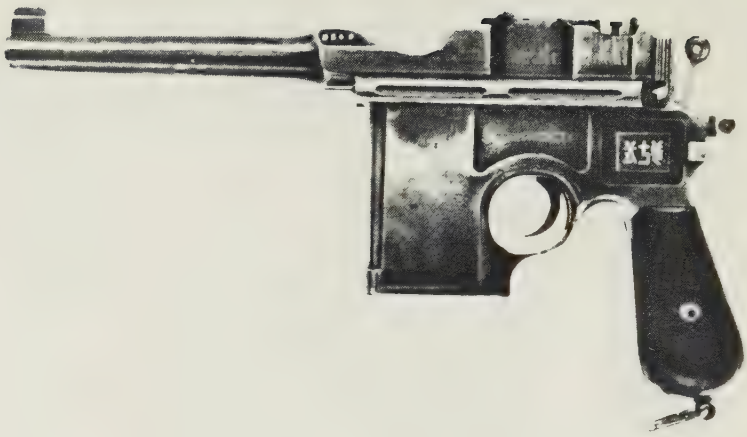
Sugiura 8mm pistol (top) compared to .32 Colt Pocket auto pistol.



CREDIT: Major Richard Keogh, courtesy of AUTO MAG
A Chinese copy of the Schnellfeuer pistol. Note arsenal markings.

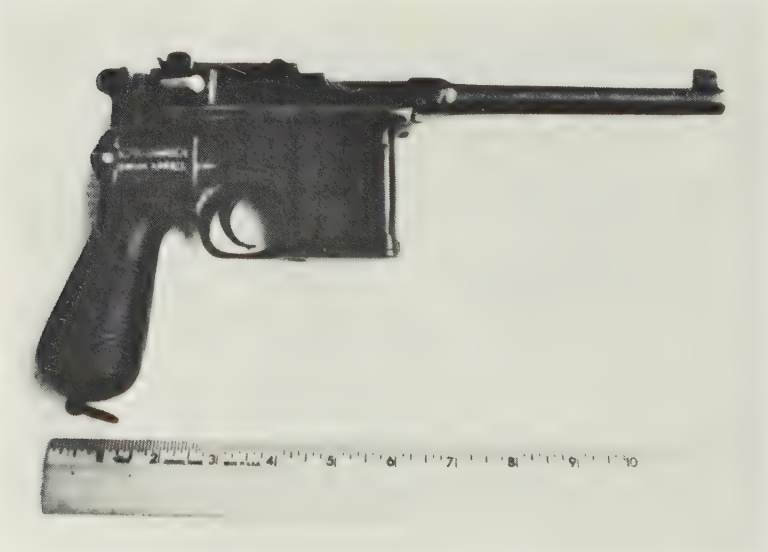


CREDIT: Major Richard Keogh
Top pistol is the ChiCom copy, in 7.63mm, of the bottom pistol, the 8mm Japanese *Sugiura*. The top pistol's serial No. is 3343, while the original is 2243.



CREDIT: GUNS & AMMO Magazine

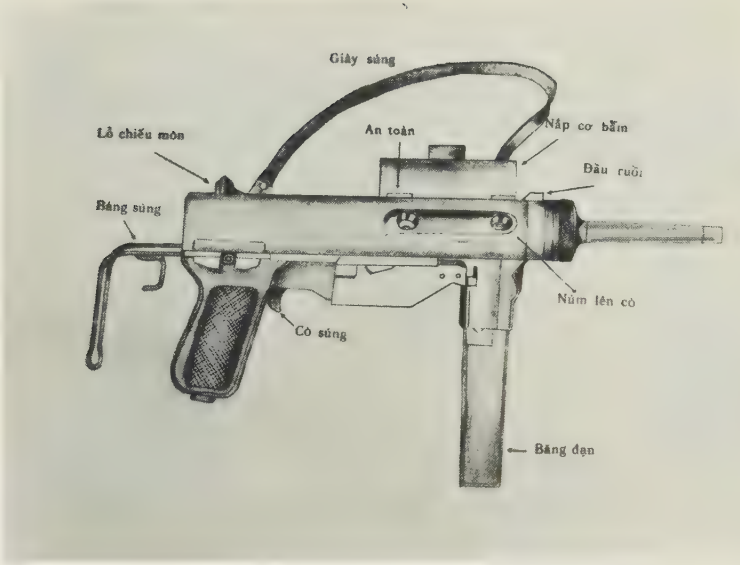
This Chinese copy of the Mauser Broomhandle pistol was produced in .45 ACP at the Shansei Arsenal.



CREDIT: Maj. Richard Keogh

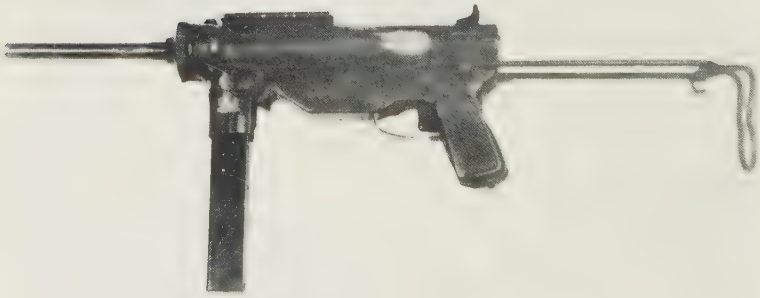
Another Chinese copy of the famed Mauser pistol.

CREDIT: R. L. Hermann, courtesy of AUTO MAG
Asiatic copy of Mauser 1896 Broomhandle pistol.



CREDIT: Tom Swearengen

Chart from South Vietnamese weapons identification sheet describing the ChiCom Model 36 submachine gun.

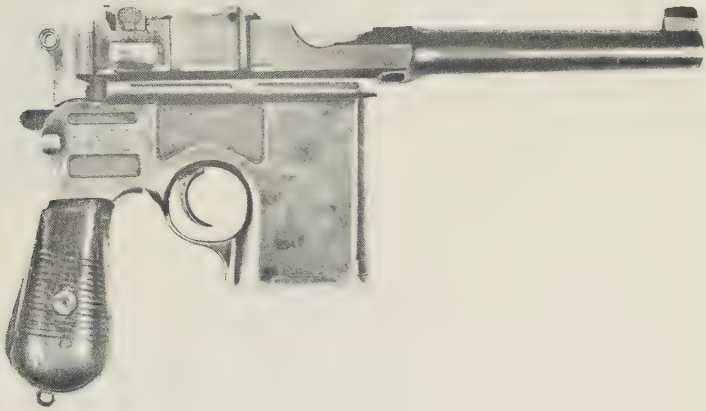


CREDIT: Thomas B. Nelson

The Chinese Model 36 is a modified copy of the U.S. M3A1, and has been manufactured on Formosa since 1950.

CREDIT: Aberdeen Proving Ground

The Chinese copy of the German Mauser Model 98 rifle in 7.92mm is known as the "Chiang Kai Shek" rifle.



CREDIT: Courtesy of Stackpole Publications

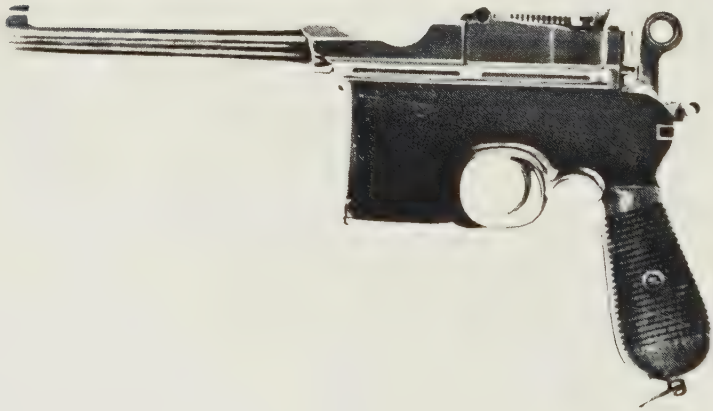
One of the most famous Chinese copies is the Mauser military model, which they made in .45 ACP.

CREDIT: Francis Brown

The Chinese Nationalist copy of the 7.92mm Mauser — known as the "Generalissimo" rifle.

CREDIT: GUNS & AMMO Magazine

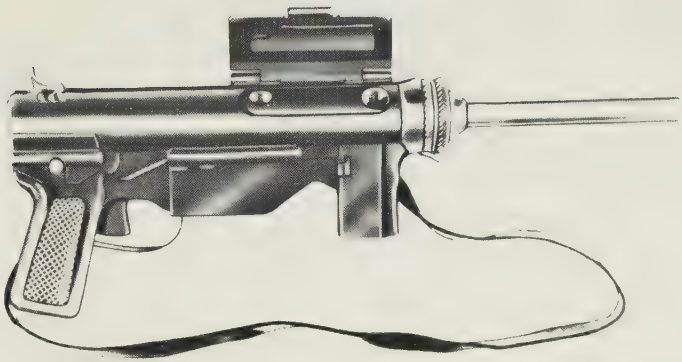
A very close copy by an unknown Chinese gun shop of the 1930 commercial model Mauser pistol.



CREDIT: GUNS & AMMO Magazine

A Chinese copy of the Slabside Mauser, produced in an unknown shop, perhaps in the '20s.

CREDIT: Golden State Arms
The Chinese Hanyang rifle, a modified copy of the German model 88 rifle.



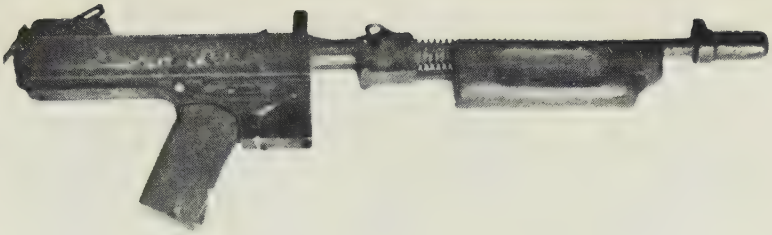
CREDIT: Tom Nelson
A Model 36, Nationalist Chinese copy of the M3A1 submachine gun.

CREDIT: U.S. Army Foreign Science & Technology Center
Another captured ChiCom Type 36 submachine gun.

CREDIT: Don Crews Collection
Close-up of the Japanese *Sugiura* pistol showing both domestic markings and serial number.

ng Ground
The Japanese copy of the M1 Garand rifle, known as the Type 5 rifle, it was produced in 7.7mm.

CREDIT: Don Thomas
Very simple construction marked these 8mm home defense weapons designed to combat the allied invasion of Japan in 1945.

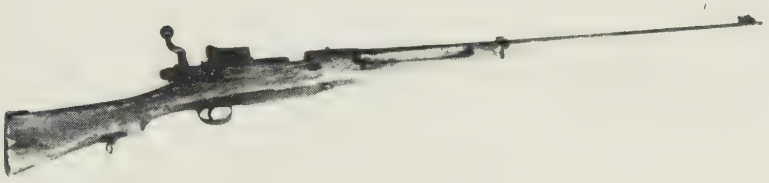


CREDIT: Lt. Col. D. C. Villanueva, A.FP

Long a favorite of Filippino soldiers, the Thompson was a real prize for guerrillas. This battered M1928 had several modifications and repairs from scrap, and was still firing strong when captured in 1950 in Central Luzon.

CREDIT: Lt. Col. D. C. Villanueva, A.F.P.

New weapons were hard to come by during WWII, so native guerrillas, operating with SOE and OSS help often modified and fixed up what they had on hand to fight the Japanese . . . as witness this British jungle rifle with many homemade alterations and parts.

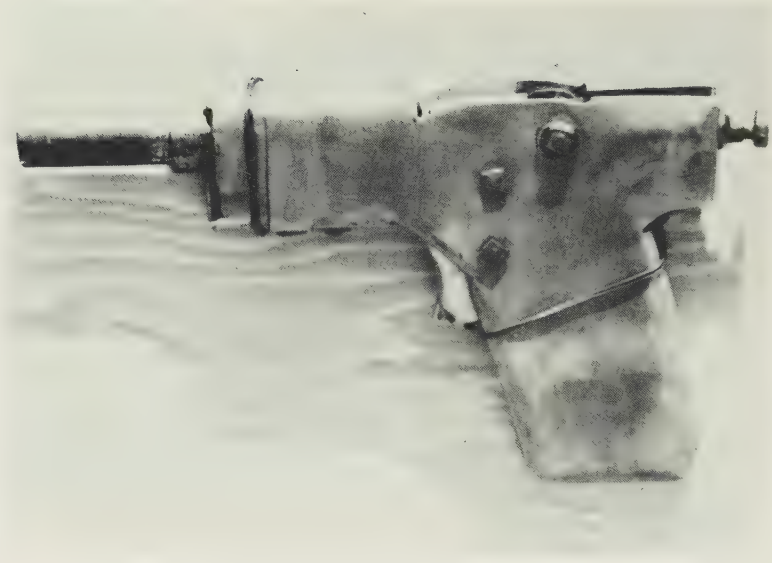


CREDIT: Lt. Col. D. C. Villanueva, A.F.P.

During WWII, Philippine guerrillas used homemade stocks and other scraps to repair older rifles, including this M1917 U.S. issue rifle.

CREDIT: Lt. Col. D. C. Villanueva, Armed Forces of the Philippines

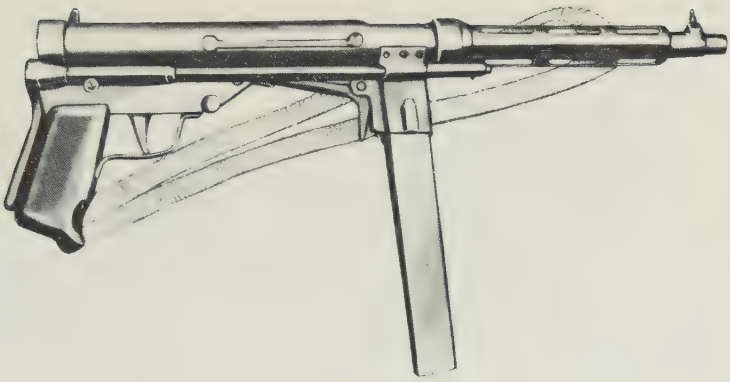
Japanese .25 calibre rifles were in fair supply among the HUK rebels from 1949 to 1954. Among them was this modification.



CREDIT: David F. Crone
This homemade .38 calibre firearm was captured in Santo Domingo.

CREDIT: Lt. Col. D.C. Villanueva, A.F.P.
This rifle was once a Springfield '03. However, during the rough days of WWII in the Pacific, it was greatly modified in a jungle gunshop.

CREDIT: Lt. Col. D. C. Villanueva, A.F.P.
This M1 carbine, a WWII leftover from the resistance to the Japanese, was modified by HUK guerrillas. It was captured in 1949 by police.



CREDIT: Tom Nelson

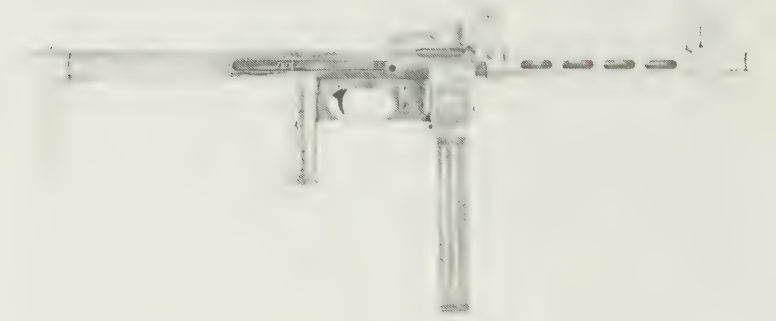
The Model BA-52, Burmese version of the Italian Tz-45, which appeared after the end of WWII.

CREDIT: Haganah Archives

Crowd of Haganah "troops" around an armoured car during their defense of Jerusalem during the Arab siege in May of 1948. Although some have surplus military weapons, there are several homemade submachine gunes, including a Thompson copy (at extreme left), plus some rifles from the underground gunshops.

CREDIT: Fairways Corporation

Italian partisans struggle through the snow, late in 1944, armed with homemade weapons, plus some air-dropped issue firearms. Leader is carrying a drastically "chopped" M1 carbine.



CREDIT: U.S. Army

The prototype EMP 44 submachine gun, a low-cost automatic weapon designed for last ditch civilian defense in WWII Germany.

CREDIT: Ladigo Valo

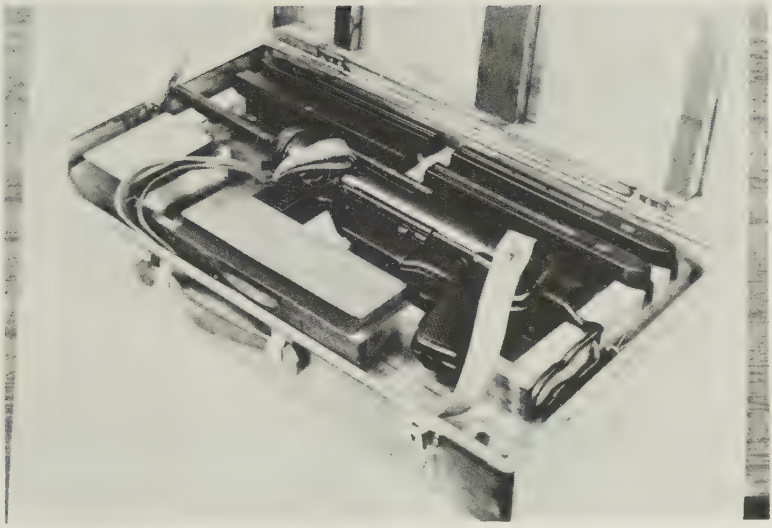
Polish resistance forces with German weapons, Soviet submachine guns, plus a few homemade rifles.

CREDIT: Bundesarchiv

A very rare photo showing the German VGI-5 in action on the Eastern Front late in the war.

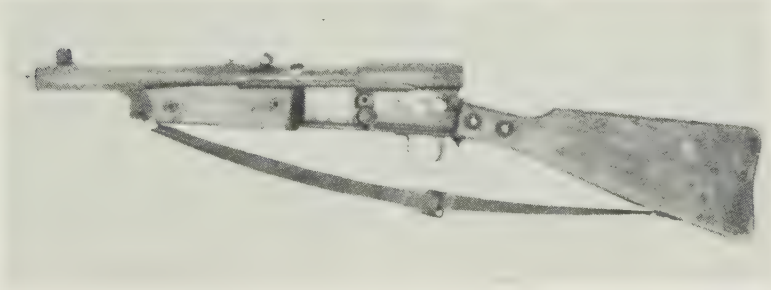
CREDIT: Columbia Pictures

Anthony Quinn holds a German machine pistol improvised from a U.S. Reising submachine gun for a scene in "Guns of Navarone."

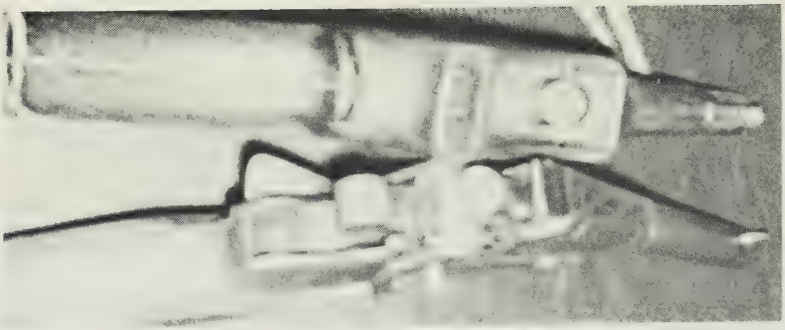


CREDIT: Tom Nelson
A presentation Model 37 submachine gun with accessories and extra magazines in its wooden case. The weapon is a copy of the M2A1.

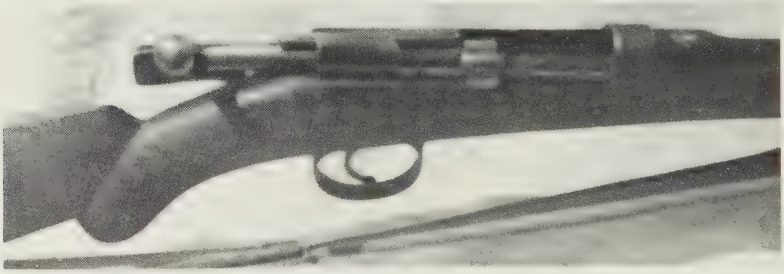
CREDIT: Danish Resistance Museum
Using Sten parts and other materials, Danish resistance gunsmiths produced this improvised submachine gun during WWII.



CREDIT: Don Stoehr
The German VGI-5 "Peoples' Rifle."



CREDIT: John A. Minnery
Rear view of two .303 "Khyber Pass" pistols.



CREDIT: John A. Minnery
The Khyber Pass .303 single shot rifle, all handmade.

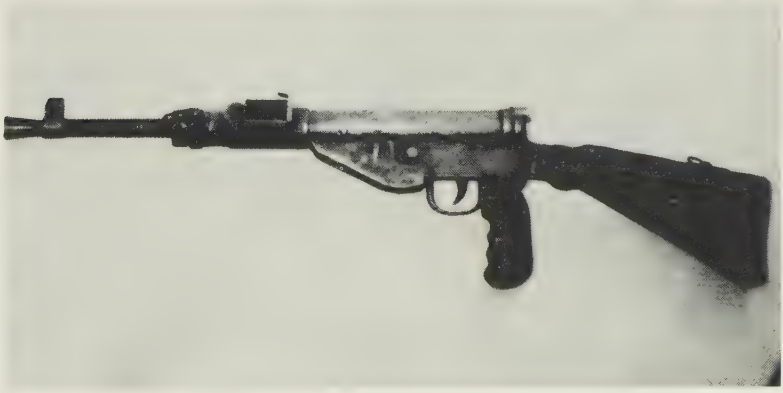
CREDIT: John A. Minnery
This .303 hand fabricated Khyber Pass rifle has fake British proof marks on its barrel.

CREDIT: GUNS & AMMO Magazine

The British experimental conversion is commonly known as the "Sword Guard Gun". The cam path guide for the bolt requires the handguard protection to prevent getting same caught in the mechanism when firing.

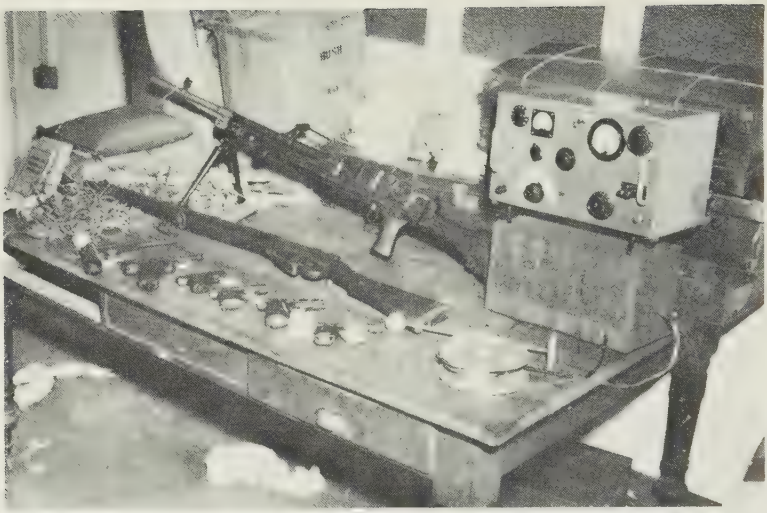
CREDIT: GUNS & AMMO Magazine

Produced as a modified prototype by New Zealand ordnance men in 1942, this design was based on the British 1918 conversion of .303 Enfield.



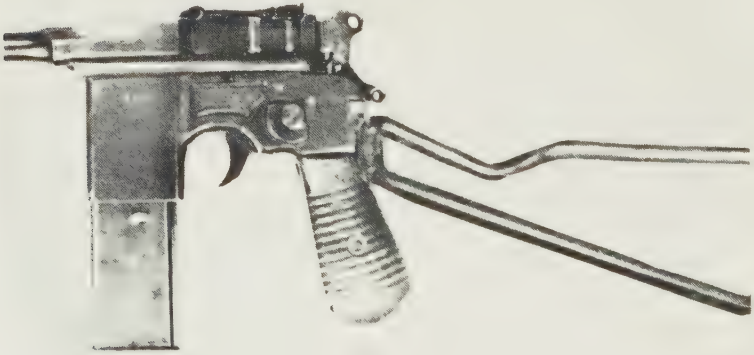
CREDIT: Tom Nelson

A representative sample of the Sten influence on Indonesian homemade submachine guns built and used during the fighting in the late '40s.



CREDIT: CPT. Alan Cowles

Captured in Ireland in 1970 during an arms sweep, this modified Mauser 1932 model had its barrel cut about as short as possible. Some type of shortened, Sten-type stock — probably homemade from pipe — is attached. Although this is the selective fire model, it is not known if or how this particular weapon saw action.



CREDIT: IRISH TIMES

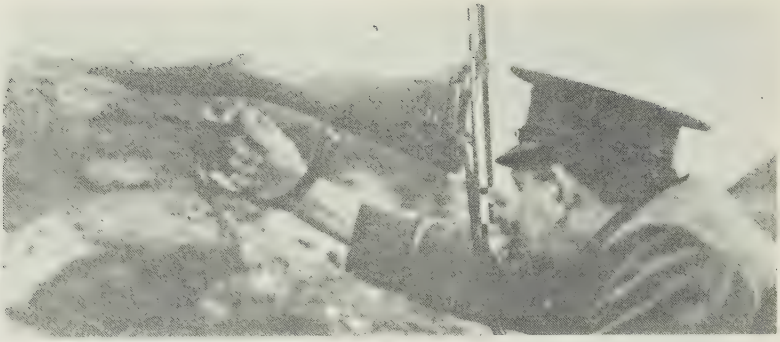
Illegal materials seized in a IRISM Army raid in Dublin, April of 1958, brought in radio equipment, stolen automatic weapons, plus some modified firearms.

CREDIT: Archivo Casasola

It's either a fake, or a great picture! During the on-going Mexican revolutionary fighting between 1910 and 1918, this Zapatista rebel uses a huge, antique firearm mounted between several rifles for knocking over his enemy.

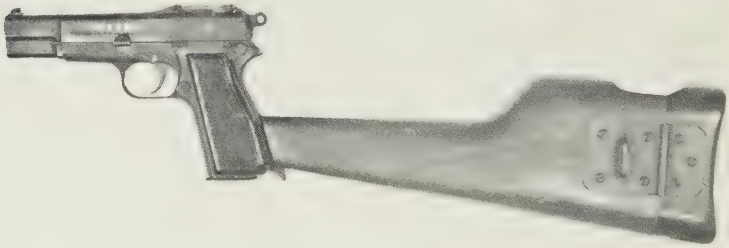
CREDIT: F. Trillas, S.A.

Eufemio Zapata, brother of the famed Mexican soldier and reformer, carried this cut down Colt Army pistol when moving around in Mexico City in 1910 and 1911. It is said he personally sawed off the barrel of this 1908 model U.S. pistol, whose original owner is unknown. Zapata claimed to have taken it from an American mercenary "advising" federal troops.



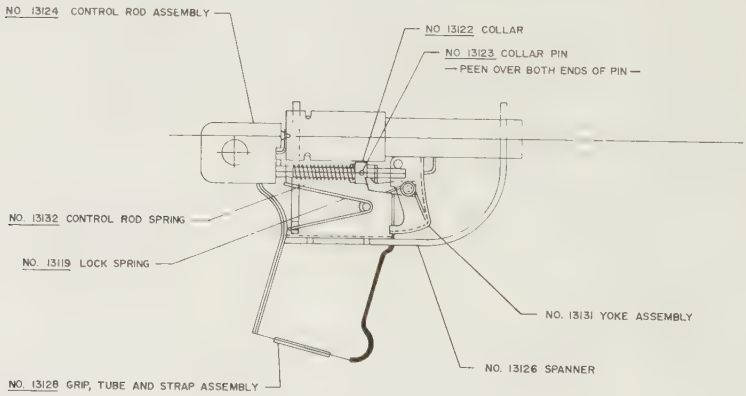
CREDIT: LESLIE'S AROUND THE WORLD IN PICTURES

An interesting modification . . . a periscope attached to a military rifle for trench firing without exposing the soldier . . . a WWI modification.



CREDIT: Jack Krema

Canadian Made Inglis (Browning) with shoulder stock favored by Chinese officers (Chinese Contract WWII)

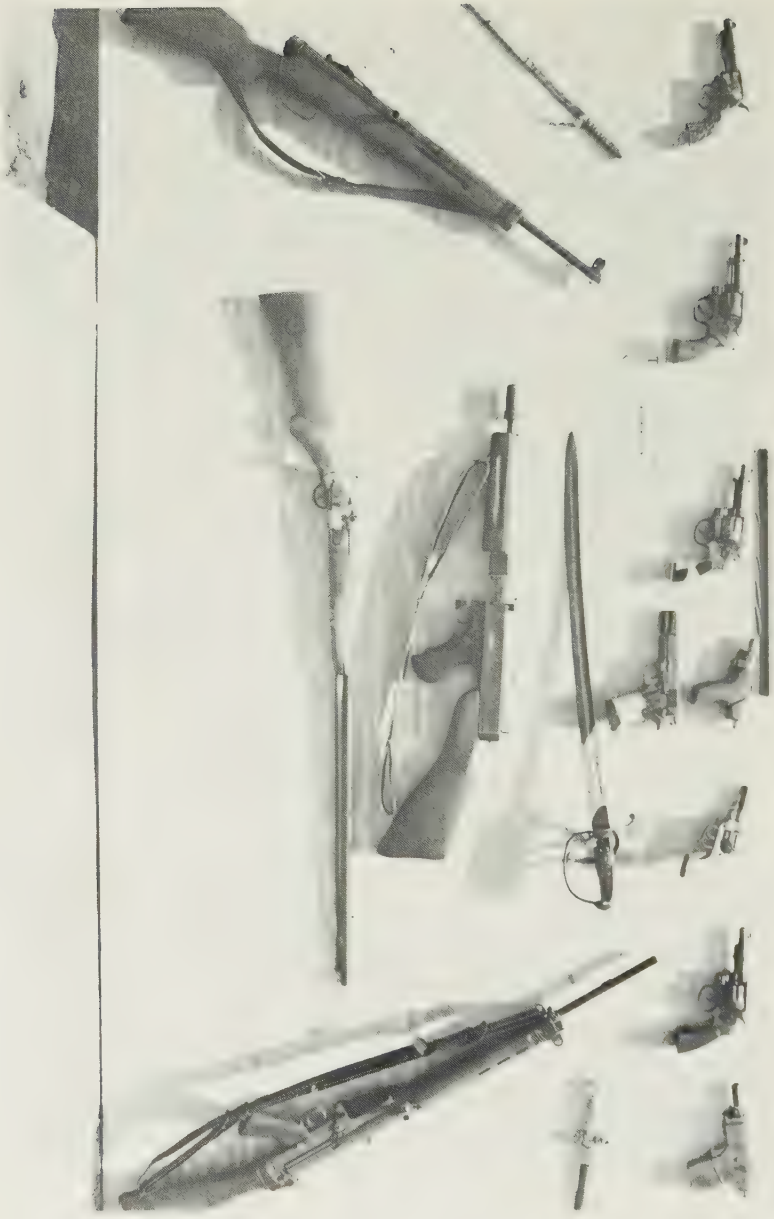

NO. 13124 CONTROL ROD ASSEMBLY
NO. 13122 COLLAR
NO. 13123 COLLAR PIN
— PEEN OVER BOTH ENDS OF PIN —
NO. 13132 CONTROL ROD SPRING
NO. 13119 LOCK SPRING
NO. 13131 YOKE ASSEMBLY
NO. 13126 SPANNER
NO. 13128 GRIP, TUBE AND STRAP ASSEMBLY

CREDIT: OSS Archives

Blueprint design for the FP-45, the famed OSS Liberator, note intentional misnomers.

CREDIT: John A. Minnery

Arms and related items turned up in a milk can secreted by the IRA . . . 3 sawed off shotguns, grenades, shotgun shells, bomb making supplies, various loose cartridges, and Lewis gun operating instructions.

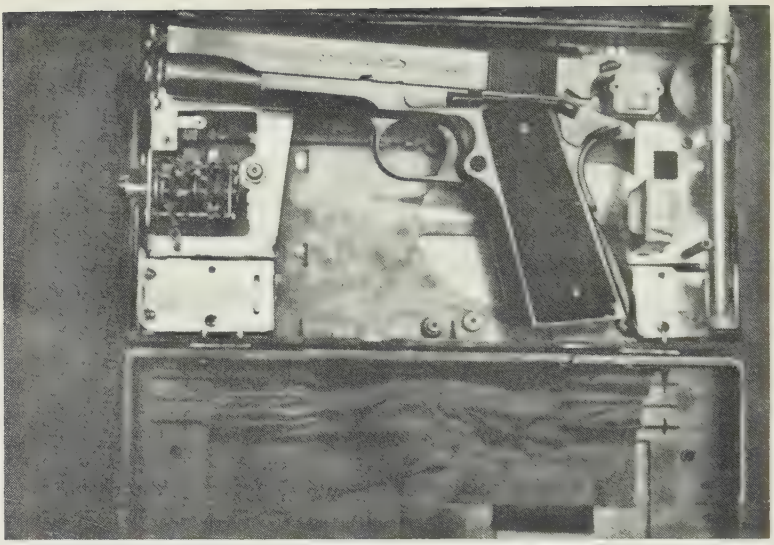


CREDIT: U.S. Army

Display board of weapons captured when 82nd Airborne invaded the Dominican Republic in 1965 shows several homemade and modified firearms.

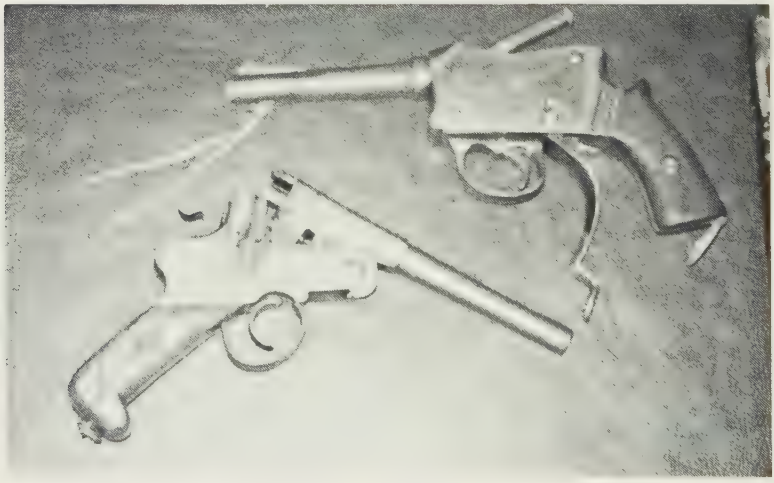
CREDIT: U.S. Army

Troops from the 82nd Airborne captured many weapons from rebels defending their territory during the 1965 invasion by the U.S. Included were a great many homemade and "pieced-together" firearms.



CREDIT: FBI

An unsuccessful smuggler tried to spirit a .45 ACP pistol into the country by hiding it in his radio.

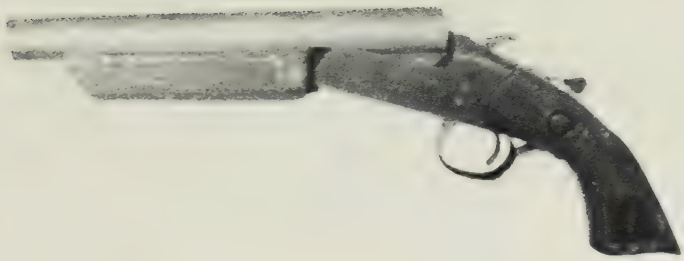


CREDIT: John A. Minnery

These two .303 pistols were handmade and both fire perfectly. They are, respectively, a Martini and a Tip-Up design.

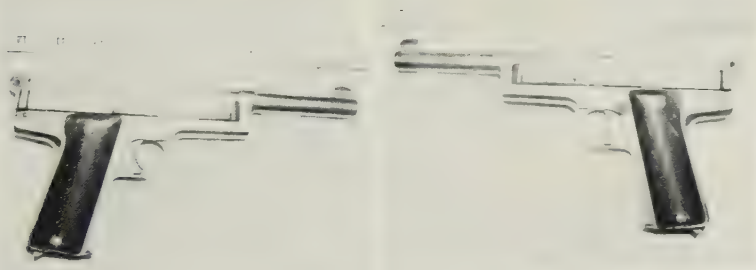
CREDIT: Joe Schroeder, courtesy of AUTO MAG
An early, handmade automatic pistol, produced in Japan by Tomisiro Komuro in 1906. The weapon is 7.65mm, and only three such weapons are known to exist.

SIDE John Tribe Brantford Ontario Police
Skeletonized cut-down Enfield .303.



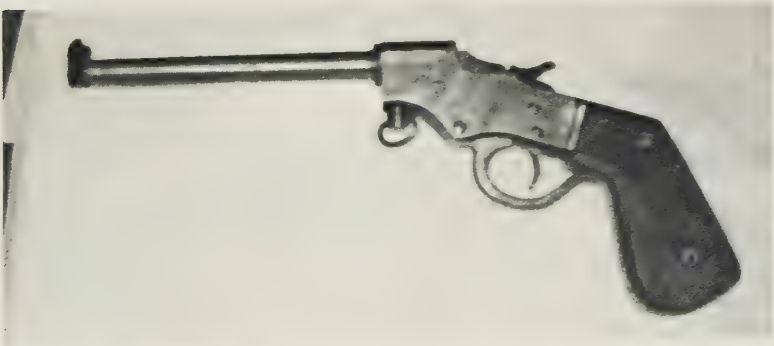
CREDIT: John A. Minnery

A sawed-off 12 gauge shotgun — a product of an underground Canadian gunshop.



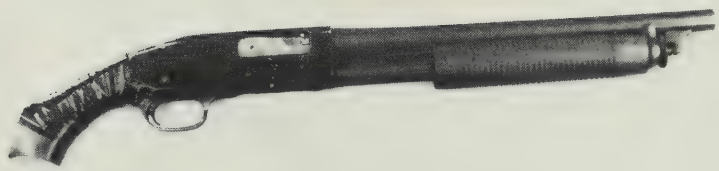
CREDIT: John Cooper, courtesey of AUTO MAG

This pistol was made in his basement by a Bavarian toward the end of WWII.

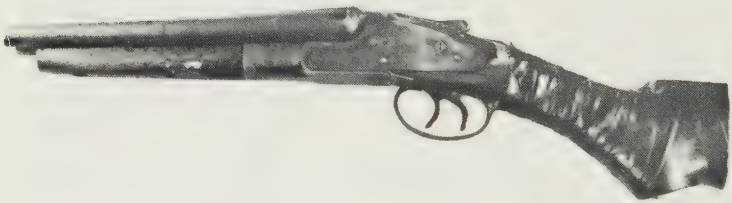


CREDIT: John A. Minnery

The left side of a cutdown Stevens .22 rifle, using many alterations to convert it to a pistol.



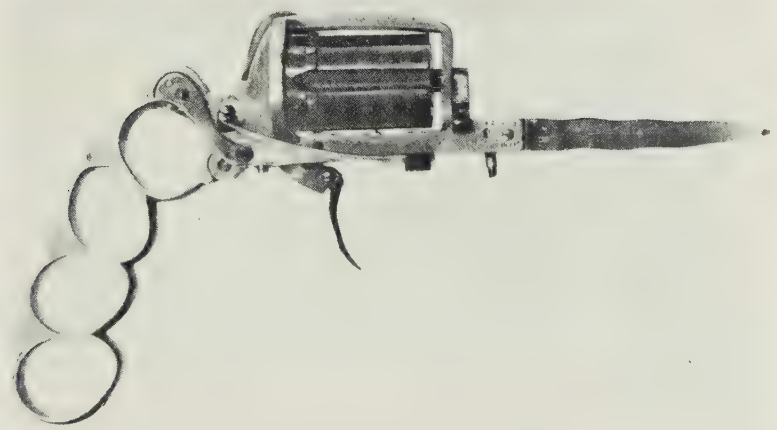
CREDIT: Tom Swearengen
This Stevens Model 325 Whipit gun was converted from a standard sporter. It is now used by Military Police in drug raids.



CREDIT: Tom Swearengen
Crescent Arms originally produced this 12 gauge double barrel as their Peerless Model, but a murder-minded hoodlum sawed it off to a 9½ inch barrel and cut the stock.

CREDIT: Tom Swearengen
W. Richard 12 gauge shotgun with barrel sawed off to 11½ inches.

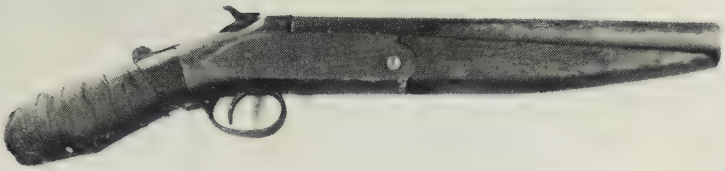
CREDIT: Kingsley P. Karnopp
An 1850-ish mechanical machine gun, whose inventor is unknown.



CREDIT: Eddie Reider
A Dolne "Apache" pistol, popular with French underworld figures some years ago.

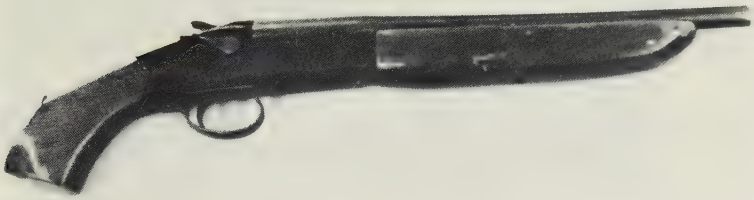
CREDIT: FBI
Baby Face Nelson's conversion of a .45 pistol into a fully automatic weapon — on display at FBI headquarters.

CREDIT: Lt. Col. D.C. Villanueva, A.F.P.
This homemade, "factory" produced .38 calibre pistol was first circulated illegally in 1966, and cost from $180 to $300 for outlaws to buy on the black market.



CREDIT: Tom Swearengen

This New White Powder Wonder, a 12 gauge shotgun, was cut down by a criminal to an overall length of 17½ inches, with a barrel of 10½ inches.



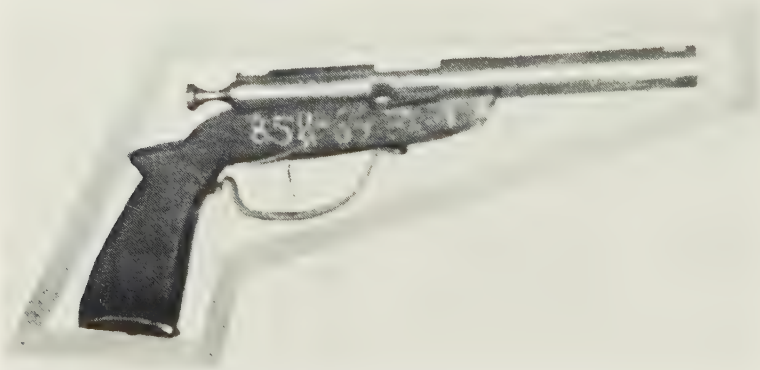
CREDIT: Tom Swearengen

A nefarious gent cut this Springfield Model 947, .410 gauge shotgun down to a 13-inch barrel, and shortened the stock to a pistol grip.

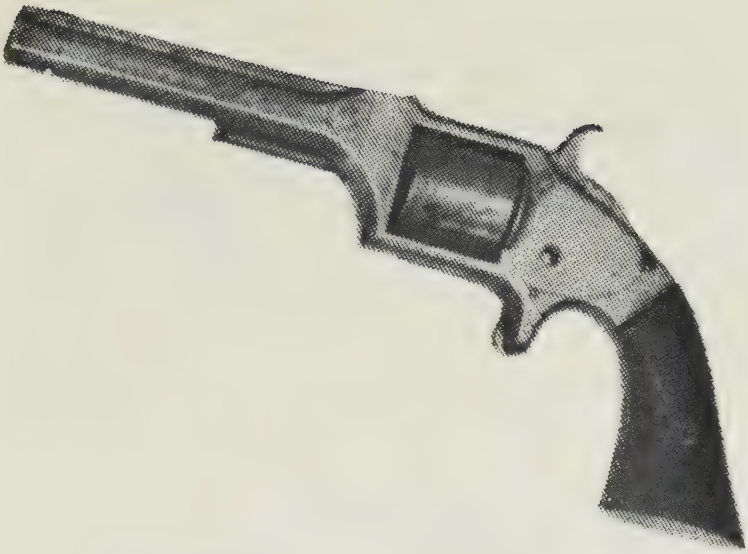
CREDIT: Tom Swearengen

Made from a 16 gauge Peerless double, this is characterized as a typical conversion job to a Whipit gun. This one, with barrel lengths of just over 9 inches, was taken from an unsavory character in South Carolina by BATF agents.

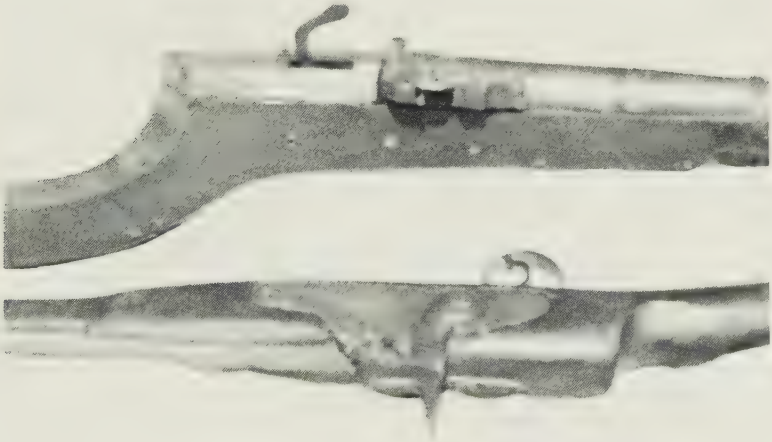
CREDIT: Logan Township Supervisors
Nine homemade firearms were turned over to police by the man who made them from old rifle barrels and other scrap materials with no criminal intent. They are examined by the Logan Township (Pa.) Board of Supervisors.



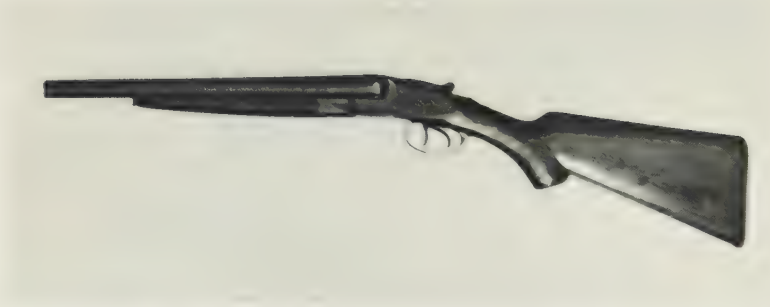
CREDIT: John A. Minnery
A .22 rifle was sawed off and modified to suit pistol design.



CREDIT: Golden State Arms
An American imitation of the famed Smith & Wesson revolver . . . actual manufacturer of this weapon is unknown.

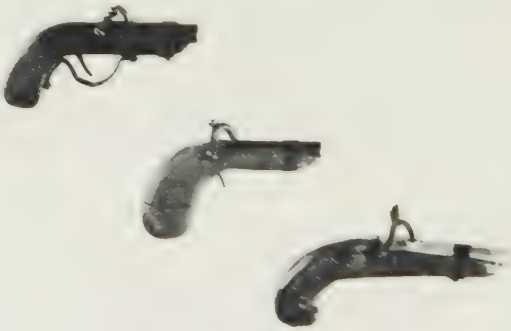


CREDIT: J. David Truby
Actions of the Indian matchlock and the North African percussion rifle.



CREDIT: Tom Swearengen

This L.C. Smith double barrel was produced by Hunter Arms Company, and altered by someone in the Beaufort, South Carolina, County Sheriff's office.



CREDIT: John Foote

Trio of early percussion pistols by expert arms designer John Foote — made when he was a youngster

CREDIT: John Foote

Handmade, homemade rifle design — produced and totally the work of John Foote as a youngster

CREDIT: John Foote

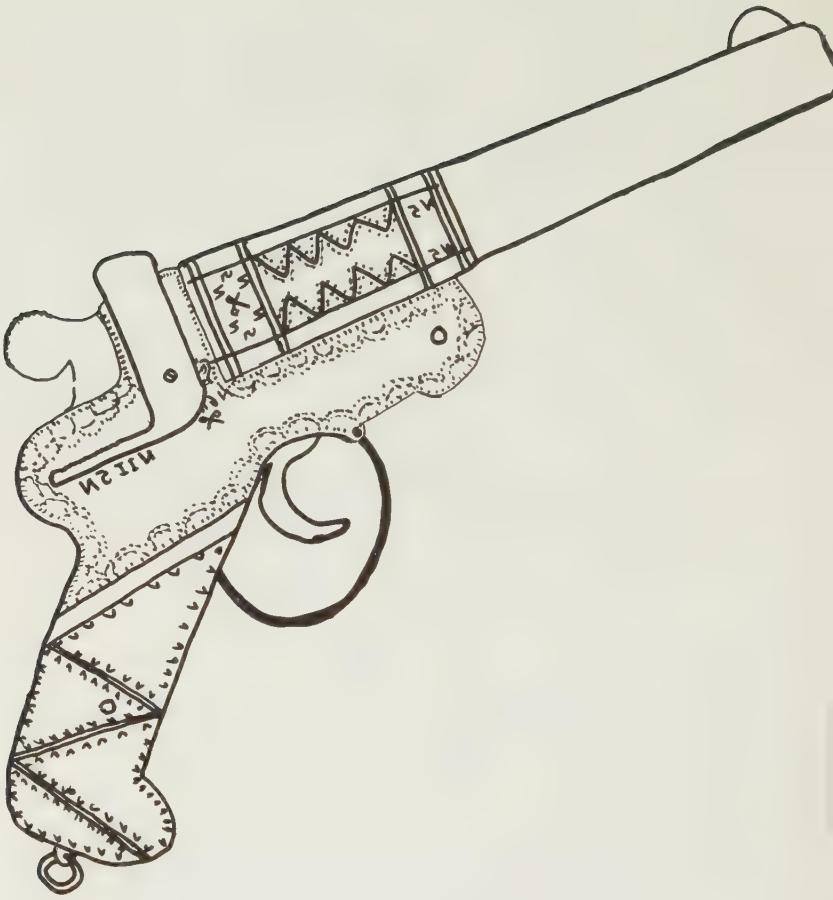
A percussion revolver by John Foote, designed and made by hand by Foote as a youngster.

CREDIT: John Foote

A modified Thompson-influenced semiautomatic arms design done by John Foote while still a high school student. Now a premier arms designer, John Foote did and does all his own machine and wood work for his prototypes.

CREDIT: R. L. Hermann, courtesy of AUTO MAG

This is an Asiatic copy of the Browning Model 1900 pistol in 32 ACP.

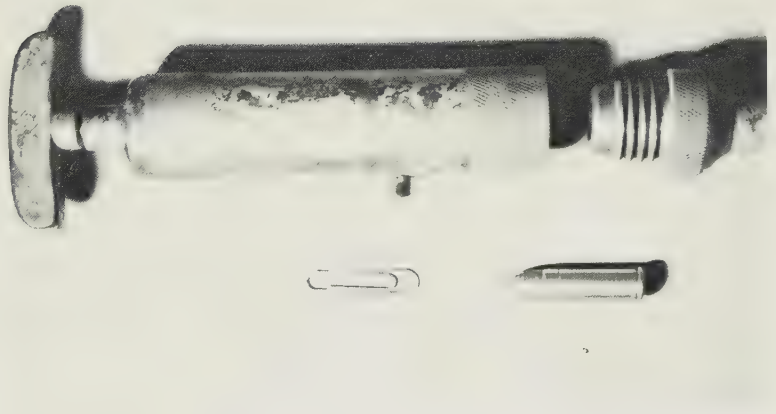


CREDIT: John Minnery

Sketch of one example of the famous "Khyber Pass" copies and improvisations of British firearms. This handgun was designed to fire .303 rifle ammunition — and did! Note fake proof marks on barrel.

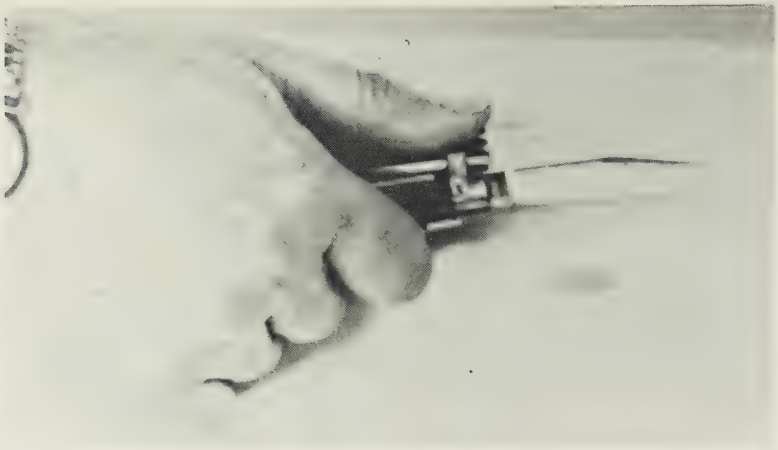
CREDIT: Joseph Reitz

A zip gun confiscated by the Baltimore PD.



CREDIT: FBI

This deadly firing extinguisher is actually a home fire extinguisher which has been converted into a single shot .38 calibre weapon. It tested as being effective and lethal at short ranges.



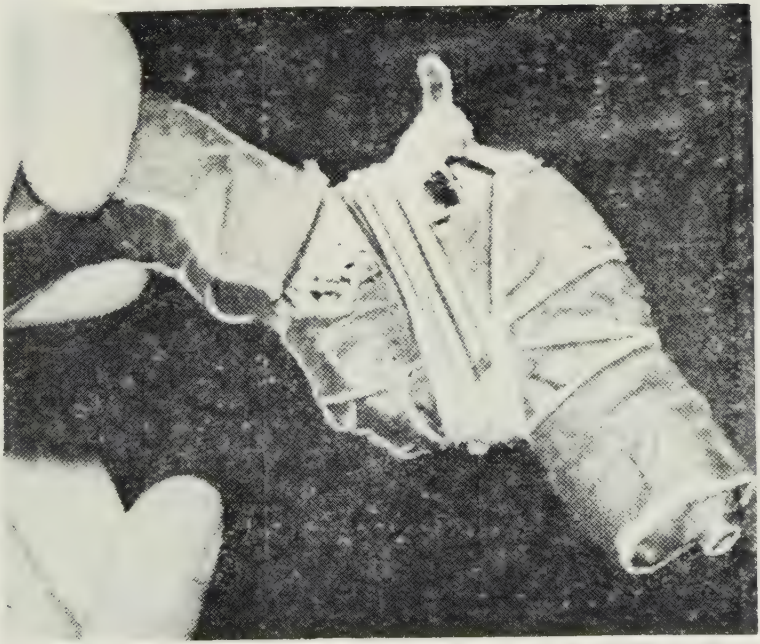
CREDIT: Pennsylvania State Police

Proper method for using the pistol knife during a gang war . . . disguising the handgun until the last minute. This one saw use on the '50s.

CREDIT: Leslie L. Smith

Custom conversion of the pellet gun into a .44 calibre firearm. Made in a classroom situation (mentioned in the text).

CREDIT: Joseph Reitz
Another example of a "classic" zip gun.



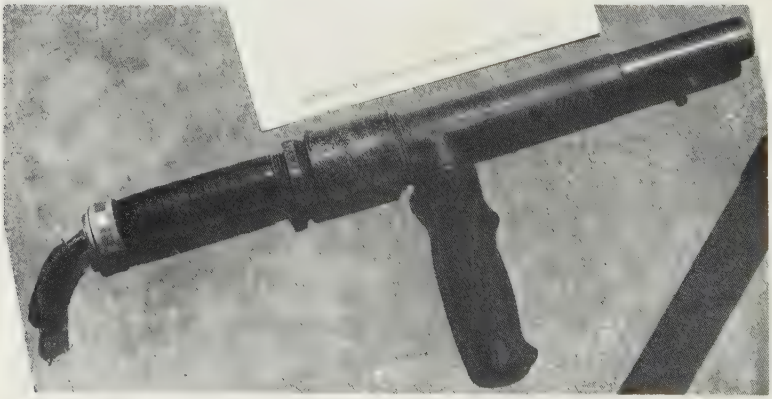
CREDIT: PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
A zip gun confiscated by Philadelphia police — believed to be the murder weapon in a robbery killing of a Philadelphia bakery driver in the early '60s.

CREDIT: FBI

A zip gun assembled from survival flare gun sold at Sporting Goods Stores, etc.

CREDIT: Joseph Reitz

Nothing original — but, no less a killer — a waterpipe zip gun.

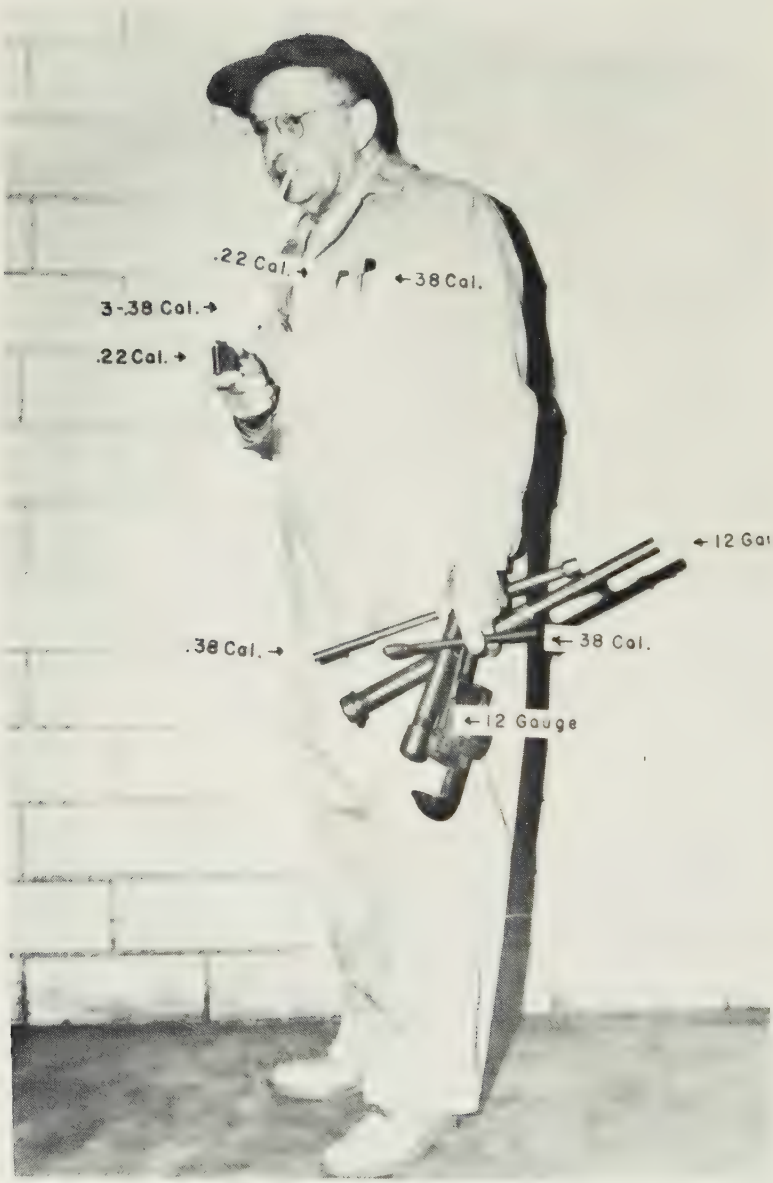


CREDIT: CPT. W. C. Simmons, Ontario (California) Police Department

The 12 gauge plumber's pieces shotgun confiscated by the Ontario, California, Police Department.

CREDIT: Timothy F. Sullivan
A classic street gun — .22 calibre with cartridge.

CREDIT: John Minnery
Zip gun with carved wooden stock was liberated in Canada.

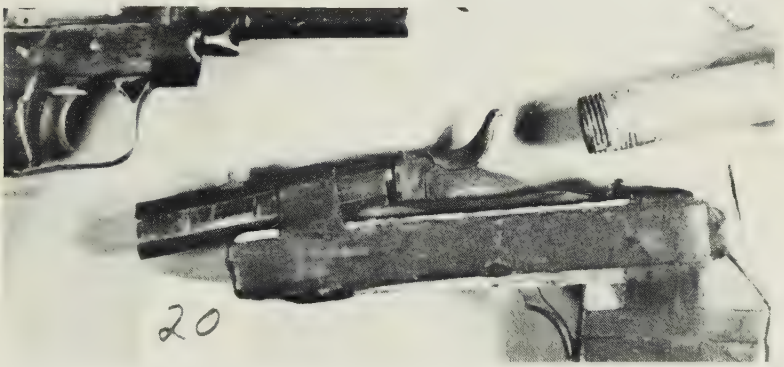


CREDIT: Pennsylvania State Police

Your "Friendly Neighborhood Plumber" is carrying a total of 10 improvised firearms. We've spotted them for you. If they don't do the job he can always clobber you with the wrench.

CREDIT: Joseph Reitz

Street gang member took a Remington .22 rifle action and cut it way down to a handgun operation.

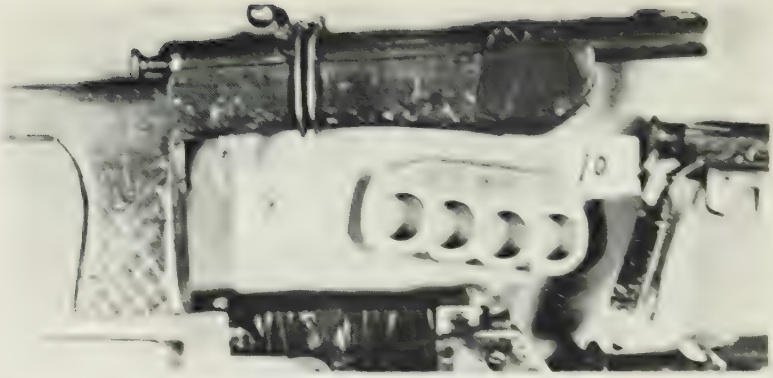


CREDIT: Joseph Reitz

A cutdown Belgian .22 rifle action formed the basic guts of this crude-mounted zip gun.

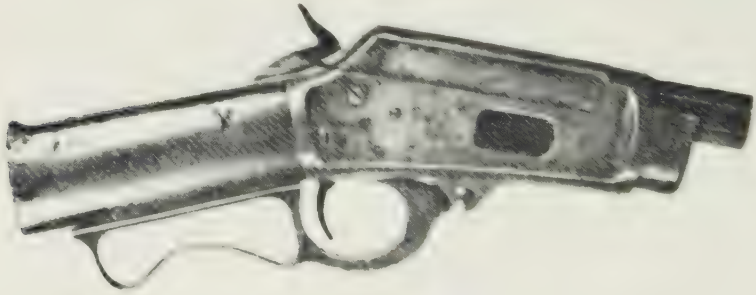
CREDIT: Paul W. Wells

A stubby, but deadly, conversion of a .22 rifle ended up in a murder in Natchez, Mississippi.



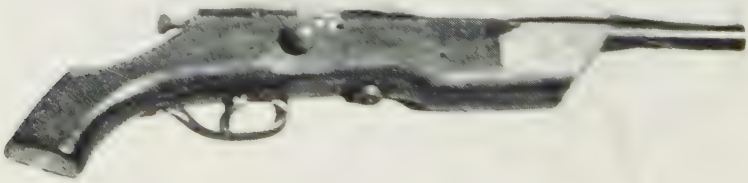
CREDIT: Joseph Reitz

Another fine Remington action falls to the gang gunsmith to produce a .22 calibre street gun for a juvenile



CREDIT: Leslie L. Smith

This radically altered Marlin .38-40 rifle was found near the work site of a Florida Road Gang (prison system). The barrel was cut to just over 2 inches, with the overall length, 10 inches. The muzzle blast was overwhelming.



CREDIT: Timothy F. Sullivan

A standard modification of a .22 single shot rifle for street use

DEADLY WEAPON

"FIREARM MADE FROM BICYCLE SPOKE"

Match heads are ground and inserted into hole No. 1, tack or other object inserted into hole No. 1. Lighted match or heat is applied under point No. 1. When heated object is propelled though the air.

CREDIT: Joseph Reitz, Baltimore PD

A crude street gun made from a common bicycle spoke.

CREDIT: Paul W. Wells

These illegal conversions, two sawed off shotguns and a cutdown .22 rifle, were confiscated by Mississippi police.

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SILENCERS, SNIPERS & ASSASSINS

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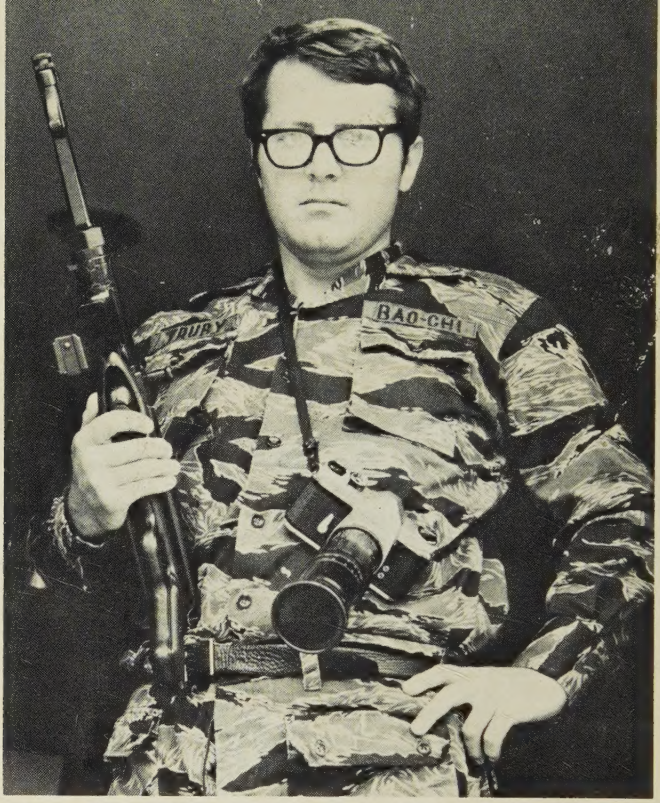

Co-author Truby in a rare pose — on the other side of the camera.

Co-author John Minnery doing field research.